TUESDAY
August 13, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

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TEMPLE TRAGEDY

Seven dead, 16 injured in Bihar stampede

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NIRF RANKING

IIT-Madras retains top spot for sixth year

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BROADCASTING SERVICES BILL

Govt. says fresh draft likely after review

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RAISING VIGILANCE

Disinformation, AI and 'cyber chakravyuh'

There is a growing danger of digital threats

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COLLECTIONS IMPROVE

Net direct tax kitty surges by 22.5%

BUSINESS » PAGE 15

Adieu Paris

Flag bearers: Manu Bhaker and P.R. Sreejesh led the Indian contingent at the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics on Monday. Los Angeles will host the 2028 edition of the Games. ANI (REPORT ON: PAGE 17)

Statistical effects pull inflation to 59-month low

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Inflation in India's consumer prices cooled dramatically from 5.1% in June to an almost five-year low of 3.54% in July, with food price rise moderating to a 13-month low of 5.4% from a six-month high of 9.4% a month earlier.

However, this was driven by the base effect from last July when retail inflation stood at 7.4% and the food index was up 11.5%, rather than a tangible relief for consumer wallets with overall prices rising 1.4% over June and food prices ticking up by 2.8%. The decline in headline inflation was accompanied by a rise in core inflation (excluding food and energy prices), which is estimated at 3.4%-3.5%, from 3.1% in June, economists noted.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

SEBI row: BJP rejects calls for JPC probe

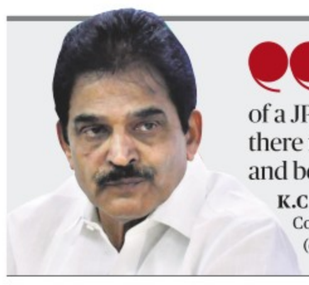
It alleges 'wider conspiracy' between Congress, Hindenburg Research; Opposition party threatens nationwide protest if demand is not met

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress on Monday continued to spar over Hindenburg Research's allegations against Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, with the ruling party rejecting the Opposition demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe.

The BJP alleged that the Congress was part of a "wider conspiracy" involving Hindenburg Research and "a tool kit" gang to destabilise the Indian economy, crash the stock market on a Monday and create economic anarchy in the country.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12



> Why is the government afraid of a JPC? Doesn't it imply that there is something to hide and be afraid of?
>
> **K.C. VENUGOPAL**
> Congress general secretary (organisation)

Stock markets remain calm

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Contrary to fears of a massive fall owing to the publication of the Hindenburg Research report on Saturday, the benchmark stock indices on Monday remained nearly calm and ended range-bound.

However, Adani Group stocks lost an estimated $13.4 billion in value, as per estimates by *Reuters*.

The S&P BSE Sensex, which opened weaker, and down 375 points from Friday's close, gradually recovered lost ground during the day and closed with a minor loss of 57 points at 79,649 points, led by public sector stocks. Similarly, the NSE Nifty-50 index closed with a loss of 20.50 points at 24,347.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 15

NEARBY

It will be a grand Mysuru Dasara this time: CM

BENGALURU
The State government has decided to celebrate this year's Mysuru Dasara in a grand and meaningful manner from October 3 to 12 in the wake of good rains that have provided a boost to agricultural activities. » PAGE 6

Many govt. schools closed due to teachers' protest

BENGALURU
Several government primary schools across Karnataka remained closed following protests by the Primary School Teachers' Association in Bengaluru for demands such as designation of teachers appointed to teach classes 1 to 7 before 2016 as Graduate Primary Teachers. » PAGE 4

Heavy rainfall brings city to its knees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A flooded area near Jayadeva hospital in Bengaluru on Monday. PTI

Moderate to heavy rain that lashed the city between late Sunday night and Monday morning brought Bengaluru to its knees, even as at least six persons, including four children, were injured in tree falls.

People woke up on Monday to inundated roads and houses in multiple areas, forcing many to choose work from home option, while many made frantic calls to the BBMP to pump out flood water from homes, apartment basements and roads. While some parents refused to send children to schools, many children travelling on school buses were stranded for hours.

According to the India Meteorological Department bulletin at 8.30 a.m., Bengaluru received 74 mm of rain in the last 24 hours. Met officials said rain would continue in the city till August 17.

At Maruthi Seva Nagar, due to tree fall incidents, six people, including four children, were injured. According to a press release issued by a private hospital, children aged 7, 10, 12 and 13 suffered minor injuries, while a male patient aged 37 is receiving ICU, and a female aged 45 years has a fracture of the femoral bone and has to undergo surgery.

In the morning hours, office-goers were grappling with flooded roads, and the traffic police issued advisories and shared details about alternative routes. Massive traffic jams were reported in key areas of Bengaluru due to severe flooding, particularly around Silk Board Junction and Hosur Road. The congestion left many motorists stranded for hours, especially on the Electronics City elevated flyover.

According to the Bengaluru Traffic Police, several other parts of the city were also heavily impacted. The Outer Ring Road between Nagawara junction and Hebbal saw slow-moving traffic in both directions. The Hebbal flyover was also affected.

Other affected areas included Veerasandra on the E-city elevated road as well as ORR at Marathahalli, Karthik Nagar, Kalyan Nagar, Puttenahalli, Varthur Kodi, and the stretch from Sakra Hospital to Bellandur.

At least 25-30 houses at Sri Sai Layout in Horamavu were flooded as rainwater mixed with drainage water entered homes.

RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGES 2 & 3

Efforts on to fix TB dam crest gate without colossal wastage of water

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Water gushing through the broken crest gate of the Tungabhadra dam at Hosapete in Vijayanagara district on Sunday. SRIDHAR KAVALI

Taking farmers' concerns into account, authorities are exploring ways to fix the damaged crest gate no. 19 of the Tungabhadra reservoir, which was washed away late on Saturday after its chain link was broken, keeping the water loss to the least possible quantum. The government is consulting a second team of experts to explore how this can be done, after the first team held that the reservoir had to be emptied by half before a new gate could be fixed.

As much as 35,000 cusecs of water began gushing through the damaged gate as soon as the link broke.

Authorities then raised the remaining 32 gates to increase the spillway discharge to reduce the pressure on the damaged gate.

Technical experts, who rushed to the reservoir on Sunday, initially held that installing a new crest gate in place of the damaged one would be possible only after half of the water in the reservoir was drained.

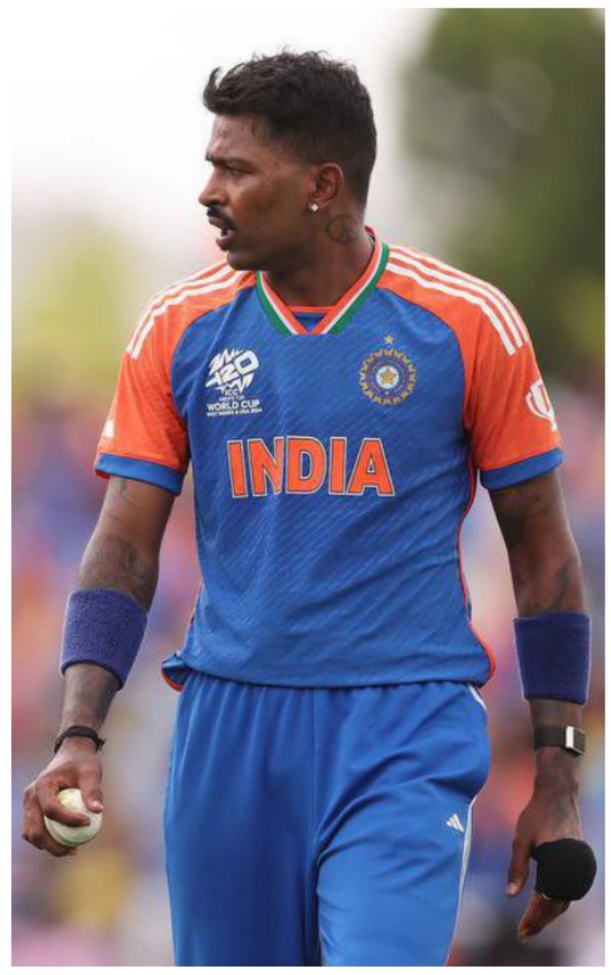
Accordingly, the spillway discharge was further increased to one lakh cusecs on Sunday and 1.4 lakh cusecs by Monday morning.

The increased spillway discharge triggered panic among farmers in the command area that spreads across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

Should the next Kapil really stand up?

The void that the 'Haryana Hurricane' left when he retired is perhaps best left alone. Laxmi Ratan Shukla, Ajit Agarkar and Irfan Pathan, among others, were all bracketed in the 'next Kapil' category. But none of them came close to matching the man himself, for no one can ever be as wholesome a package as Kapil Dev



Big shoes to fill: India has Shivam Dube, Hardik Pandya, right, and possibly Nitish Kumar Reddy, centre, to don the seaming all-rounder's garb in limited-overs internationals. AP, K.R. DEEPAK & GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

To say that Kapil Dev has spoiled successive generations of Indian cricket followers with his unmatched genius will be no exaggeration. More than four and a half decades since his stirring debut in Pakistan, Kapil remains India's first, foremost and arguably only fast-bowling all-rounder, a phenom who could turn the course of a match with bat alone, ball alone, or just in the field – his celebrated catch to dismiss Viv Richards in the 1983 World Cup final is a shining, but hardly solitary, example of his status as a game-changing fielder.

Exigencies of workload management following his immediate climb to both India's shock and stock bowler in the wake of the retirements of the celebrated spin quartet not long after he broke through meant Kapil had to drop pace and conserve himself in national interest. That didn't prevent him from stacking up a then world record 434 Test wickets when he bid adieu to cricket in 1994. Throw in 253 One-Day International wickets, 5,248 Test runs, 3,783 ODI runs and 64 and 71 catches respectively in the longer and shorter formats internationally, and the picture of a larger-than-life persona is complete, even if these impressive numbers can't do justice to his natural athleticism and extraordinary skills.

Kapil's retirement spawned the quest for the next Kapil Dev - unfortunate on those who were instantaneously labelled that, because there can only be one Kapil Dev. Laxmi Ratan Shukla, current chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and Irfan Pathan, among others, were bracketed in the 'next Kapil' category; predictably, none of them came close to matching the Haryana Hurricane, for no fault of theirs.

For a brief while, Hardik Pandya threatened to be that all-rounder in the Kapil mould - not the next Kapil, just the first Hardik Pandya. In just 13 months after his Test debut in July 2017, Pandya boasted a century and a five-wicket haul in his first 11 games. He could have gone on to make a difference with his power-packed batting and his intelligent fast bowling, but a frail and protesting body means Pandya is unlikely to add to his Test appearances.

His last five-day game was in September 2018, and he has informed the authorities that his red-ball career is all but over. What a shame. Pandya's travails only serve to lend greater aura to Kapil - not that it was needed. A staggering 48,853 deliveries in First Class cricket, 14,947 balls in one-day games. Not to mention nearly 17,000 runs in the two formats put together. And Kapil hardly missed a game through injury. Truly, to paraphrase a commercial in which he appeared, *Kapil da jawaab nahi*.

India at least have Pandya, and maybe Shivam Dube, to don the seaming all-rounder's garb in limited-overs internationals, but the quest for a like resource in Test matches continues. Forget about an out-and-out all-rounder, there is hardly anyone who can bowl seam-up, a far cry for about a decade from 1996 when Sourav Ganguly and, if the mood seized him, Sachin Tendulkar would mark out a run-up and tease batters with their skill, particularly in helpful conditions.

A special quartet

Kapil formed a terrific quartet of top-class all-rounders through the 1980s with Imran Khan, Ian Botham and Richard Hadlee. Each of them was special; Hadlee didn't quite have the same numbers with the bat as his famed trio of counterparts, but many reckon he was the meanest bowler of them all and could play blistering knocks from time to time, if not with the same regularity as Kapil and Botham.

They were succeeded by Jacques Kallis, who many consider the premier all-rounder in cricket, with due respect to Garfield Sobers, the aforementioned quartet and numerous others. The versatile South African amassed more than 11,500 runs in Tests (13,289) and ODIs and stacked up 292 Test wickets and 273 ODI scalps. In Tests, largely in the slips, he snaffled 200 catches, and grabbed 131 in ODIs. He was equally adept at bowling with the new ball and coming on first- or second-change, and he almost exclusively batted in the top order. Even the other great all-rounders will concur that Kallis is right up there with the best, if not the best itself.

India might not have a seaming all-rounder in Tests, but in the larger all-rounder category, they are reasonably well covered when it comes to the five-day format. In R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel, they have three wonderful exponents of spin who are extremely capable with the bat. Ashwin's batting has fallen off a little internationally in recent times though he does boast five Test hundreds. Jadeja and Axar, both left-handers, aren't just biffers of the ball down the order. So much has the former's batting come on that India have used him at No. 4 even overseas to make the most of his left-handedness, and Jadeja hasn't disappointed.

Axar's versatility means even if he bats at 7 or 8 in Tests, he is adept at batting higher up in limited-overs cricket - like he showed at the T20 World Cup in June - and playing according to the situation.

This trio gives Rohit Sharma plenty of options during a home Test, and while it will be impossible to fit all of them into the XI when India play outside the sub-continent, the think-tank can rest easy in the knowledge that even if one of the premier all-rounders were to be rendered unavailable for one reason or the other, they have various other fallback options. It's a great luxury to possess, as was evident during the home series against England early this year, and as will be obvious when India play five Tests in their own backyard between September and November, first against Bangladesh and then against New Zealand.

Like Rohit and Virat Kohli, Jadeja announced his retirement from international T20s less than 24 hours after India defeated South Africa in the final of the T20 World Cup in Bridgetown towards the end of June. Jadeja is still available for ODIs, but already, signs are that in 20-overs cricket, India have a couple of promising names to bank on.

Vital cogs

Pandya, Dube, Jadeja and Axar were key to India's undefeated march through the World Cup draw in the Americas. Without Jadeja, now the spotlight is trained on Washington Sundar and Riyan Parag, who were both impressive during the short tour of Sri Lanka straddling July and August. Washington started off as a top-order batter who has now been pigeonholed as an off-spinner who can weigh in with good runs lower down.

Win-win

Parag is very much a batter first, but in both the T20Is and on his ODI debut earlier this month, showed great craft and control with his varied mix of the off-break and the leg-break. It's to the credit of the decision-makers that they have got Parag to bowl a fair bit; for Parag to have an additional string to his bow means he will have a slight edge over his nearest batting competitors, of whom there are many. Talk of a win-win.

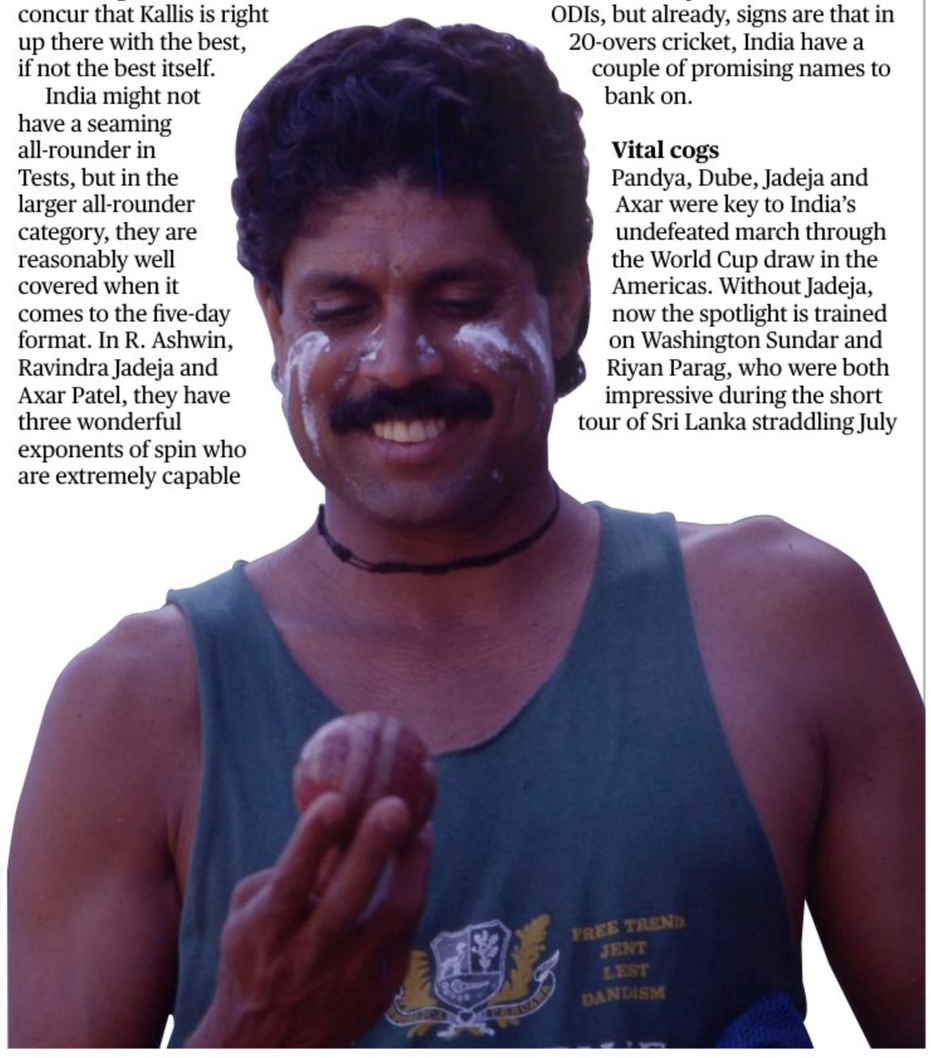
Sometimes, when you don't have what you need, you must find a way around it and one of those ways is to get specialist batters to chip in with a few overs. That might not be enough to earn them the label of an all-rounder, but to have the insurance of a few overs from one or two top-order batters is never a bad thing. India were fortunate for much of the 2000s and beyond to be able to get multiple and successful overs from Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Ganguly and Yuvraj Singh, all top-order batters but definitely more than just part-time bowlers. Between them, they had more than 450 ODI scalps - only Ganguly of this foursome had fewer than 100 wickets. What would Rohit not give to have two such multi-skilled players in his ranks now?

In addition to Pandya and Dube, India have one other possible seam-up all-rounder in the making, a 21-year-old from Visakhapatnam answering to the name of Nitish Kumar Reddy. Nitish has played 17 First Class and 22 List A (domestic 50-over) games, but it wasn't until he exploded with the bat primarily for Sunrisers Hyderabad in IPL 2024 that he forced a majority of the cricket-lovers in India to sit up and take notice.

Nitish is a clean striker of the ball but he isn't just that; he is situationally aware and has multiple gears to his batting. He is also a brisk fast-medium bowler with a good head on his shoulders. Reward for his exploits during SRH's wonderful run to the final came in the form of a maiden T20I call-up for the five-match series in Zimbabwe last month, but an injury sustained at the fast bowlers' camp at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru not long before the team's departure meant his joy was short-lived.

Nitish will be back, of course. He is on the radar of the selection panel and the team's brains' trust; Rohit, new T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav and head coach Gautam Gambhir will be monitoring his progress closely alongside the selectors, and it shouldn't be long before Nitish makes his India debut, which ideally should be a means to an end, not an end in itself.

Thankfully, no one has started talking about Nitish being the next Kapil. Let him be. Let him be Nitish Kumar Reddy. As we have established, they don't make them like Kapil Dev anymore.



THE GIST

- In India, there is hardly anyone who can bowl seam-up, a far cry for about a decade from 1996 when Sourav Ganguly and, if the mood seized him, Sachin Tendulkar would mark out a run-up and tease batters with their skill
- Hardik Pandya could have gone on to make a difference with his power-packed batting and his intelligent fast bowling, but a frail and protesting body means he is unlikely to add to his Test appearances
- In the larger all-rounder category, India is reasonably well covered when it comes to the five-day format. In R. Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel, it has three wonderful exponents of spin who are extremely capable with the bat
- Of late, India has tried the likes of Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar and Riyan Parag for the all-rounders' role. Also on the radar is Nitish Kumar Reddy, who shone for SRH in the recent IPL

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WHERE & WHEN

HYDERABAD
Taj Vivanta, Hyderabad, Begumpet
Aug 15, 2024

VIJAYAWADA
Taj Vivanta, Vijayawada
Aug 17, 2024

BENGALURU
Christ University, Central Campus, Hosur Road, Koramangala
Aug 19, 2024

Christ University, Kengeri Campus
Aug 20, 2024

COIMBATORE
Vivanta by Taj, Race Course Road
Aug 22, 2024

Kumaraguru College of Technology
Aug 23, 2024

CHENNAI
Loyola College
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Moderate rainfall in a short span of time leads to flooding

The highest amount of rain recorded in the city on Monday morning, 61.5 mm, was in Kodigehalli, off airport road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city experienced moderate to heavy rainfall from late Sunday night onwards, leading to flooding in several areas. The Bengaluru Traffic Police issued warnings of slow-moving traffic across key routes on Monday morning and advised commuters to plan their travel accordingly.

The police said traffic along Wind Tunnel Road was sluggish towards Kempapura due to inundation. Along Bannerghatta Road and Jayadeva, both directions are significantly congested. Slow traffic was reported towards Silk Board at Rupena Agrahara, the police said.

Following heavy rains that lashed the city on Sunday night, the Balagere stretch near Varthur was inundated on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Slow traffic

A vehicle breakdown between Tubarahalli and Kundalahalli caused slow traffic. Heavy delays were also being reported due to ongoing BMRCL work along ORR. Traffic was slow due to BBMP and railway underpass work at Panattur S Cross, and heavy rain caused inundation, adding to the chaos.

Waterlogging caused slow traffic on both the upper ramp towards the city and the down ramp towards the airport at Hebbal flyover.

Other affected areas include Marathahalli, Karthik Nagar, Kalyan Nagar, Puttenahalli, Varthur Kodi, and the stretch from Sakra Hospital to Bellandur.

Short span

The city received moderate rainfall in the early hours of Monday. But many roads were inundated and waterlogged, throwing traffic out of gear in the morning. "Rains lashed the city in a small time frame of less than an hour from around 3.30 a.m. to 4.30 a.m., followed by light rains that did not let up for over two hours," said Karee Gowda, Director of Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre (KSNDMC). KSNDMC categorises rains in the range of 15 mm to 65 mm as moderate rain and anything above 65 mm as heavy rain.

Rainwater entered houses at Amruth Nagar in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

> Water receded from the roads by mid-morning. While rains lashing the city in a short window was one reason for roads being waterlogged, it took some time for the water to recede
>
> **KAREE GOWDA**
> KSNDMC

The highest amount of rain recorded in Bengaluru on Monday morning – 61.5 mm – was in Kodigehalli, off International Airport Road. None of the other 62 rain gauges of KSNDMC in Bengaluru recorded over 60 mm rainfall on Monday morning. Seven other stations recorded over 50 mm of rainfall. Four pockets in the city recorded light rainfall.

However, KSNDMC data show that while the normal rainfall for August 12 is around 3 mm average rainfall, the city received an average of 20 mm of rainfall on Monday morning.

"The water receded from the roads by mid-morning. While rains lashing the city in a short window was one reason for roads being waterlogged, it took some time for the water to recede, maybe because of clogging of drains along these roads," Mr. Karee Gowda said.

Rainfall amount

Area	Rainfall
Kodigehalli	61.5
V.V. Puram	57.5
Vidyapeetha	56
Nayandahalli	55
Hagadur	54
R.R. Nagar	53
Chowdeshwari ward	51.5
Vishwanath Nagenahalli	50.5
Yelahanka	49
Pulikeshinagar	49.5
Arakere	48.5
Doddanekkundi	45
HSR Layout	45
Nagapura	44
Chamarajpet	43.5
Cottonpet	43.5

Rainfall in mm from 8.30 a.m. on Aug 11 to 8.30 a.m. on Aug 12

Ordeal of residents in layouts prone to flooding continues

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The daily wage labourers residing at an independent house at Sri Sai Layout woke up when their shirts started to feel moist, only to see water surrounding them. The stench was unbearable as the rainwater that entered the house was mixed with sanitary water.

Neelufar Ahmed, the owner of the house who has rented the ground floor to daily wage labourers, said at least 25-30 houses in the layout were flooded following heavy rain on Sunday night and Monday morning. The people were seen struggling to clear water and despite calling the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, no one responded, she alleged.

Ms. Ahmed further said every year, the residents, including her have to set aside money to clean the homes after flooding. This has become a routine affair during the monsoon. "Every year, elected representatives visit the area and make promises of fixing the problem, but till today nothing has happened," she said.

She said while seven streets were inundated, water from overflowing commodes of the washrooms also entered houses and blamed the faulty drainage system.

Residents of Sonestaa Silver Oak in Thubarahalli, Whitefield, had to deal with collapsed boundary of apartment. Water-logging on the other side of the wall is a yearly affair, but was exacerbated by ongoing construction less than a foot away from it this year. A huge influx of water knocked down the wall, damaging water pipes and flooding the entire ground-floor parking area. Concerned residents called the Fire Department immediately who worked relentlessly for 6 hours to drain the water. There was minor damage to some vehicles with one scooter being knocked over and breaking its side mirrors.

Residents are concerned about future flooding, now that the wall is gone. "At least the wall could sustain for some time so that water didn't come inside, but now there is nothing. If it rains suddenly, we will be in a worse condition than this," said Sanjeev Das, the president of the apartment's Residents Welfare Association.

Mani S., a resident of Daadys Garden Layout at Kammasandra in Anekal said, "The commissioner of Anekal City Municipal Council visited the spot. Every year he visits, but no measures are implemented.

Inputs from Mahima Nagaraju and Syeda Zainab.

Rain damage

East Zone
- Tree branches fell on two-wheelers, injuring four people near Maruti Sevanagar
- Water entered Cox Town Government School
- Storm-water drain in Nagawara junction, HBR Layout 5th Block was blocked

Mahadevapura Zone
- A compound wall collapsed near Thubarahalli, flooding the basement
- Balagere main road and Seegehalli road were flooded

Yelahanka Zone
- Water entered houses in Bhuvaneshwari Nagar and Muniswamappa Layout near Amruthahalli lake
- Jakkur underpass, Kogilu main road and Hebbal junction were inundated

South Zone
- Main road near Silk Board junction, Kalasipalaya market, Jayadeva underpass were flooded

R.R. Nagar Zone
- J.P. Park ward, Sai Baba Temple railway underpass flooded

Metro services to be temporarily adjusted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Namma Metro train services between Nagasandra and Peenya Industry will be temporarily adjusted from Tuesday to Thursday, to accommodate signaling tests on the Reach-3 Extension Line to Madhavara (BIEC).

On Tuesday, the last train service will operate at 10 p.m. instead of 11 p.m. The first train on Wednesday and Thursday will start at 6 a.m., an hour later than usual, and the last service on Wednesday will again be at 10 p.m. There are no changes to the Purple Line services. The public has been advised to plan their travel accordingly.

Meanwhile, the Namma Metro has announced a special ticketing arrangement for Lalbagh flower show on August 15, 17, and 18. Visitors traveling to and from the Lalbagh Metro Station can purchase return journey paper tickets at a flat rate of ₹30.

These special tickets, available from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on the designated dates can be purchased with cash at Lalbagh Metro Station. The paper tickets will be valid for travel from Lalbagh station to any other station on the same day of purchase, providing a convenient option for attendees of the flower show.

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mail-rdsdgumla123@gmail.com

अति अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई– निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/GUMLA/05/2024-25 (2nd Call)
1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

ग्रुप० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	गुमला जिला के चैनपुर प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत बरवेनगर पंचायत के ग्राम शंख सेम्बरटोली से बहेराटोली के बीच शंख नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	7,40,24,800.00	14,80,500.00	10,000.00	24 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 19.08.2024
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 19.08.2024 से दिनांक 25.08.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, गुमला।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 27.08.2024 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गुमला।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 8709875092 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गुमला

PR 332541 Rural Development(24-25)#D

PANCHAYATHRAJ ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
Ramanagara Jilla Panchayath,
Office of The Executive Engineer Division, Ramanagara.

Short Term Tender Notification No. : 13/EE/PRED/RMG/AE/ 475-482/2024-25 Date : 09-08-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through E-procurement System)

The Executive Engineer, Panchayathraj Engineering Division, Ramanagara, invites the Itemwise tender. Contractors registered in **KPWD,** enrolled in **PRED / PWD** Licence for the works under Deferent Head of Account **Tender Minimum Amount Rs. 30.00 Lakhs. Tender Maximum Amount Rs. 150.00 Lakhs. Tender Last Date for Submission of Tender Dated : 21-08-2024 by 4.00 p.m. Opening of the Technical Bid Tender Dated : 22-08-2024 at 4.30 p.m. (KW-2, KW-3), Opening of the Financial Bid Tender Dated : 26-08-2024 by 4.30 p.m. (KW-3)** on wards. For details & further information visit the **Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or Contact this Office in Office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P. R. E. Division, Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/227/Manipal/2024-25

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
SPECIAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT S.P.D.C.No.B1/0807/2024

e - TENDER NOTICE e - Tender is invited for the following work in Two Cover System as per details furnished below.

1. **S.P.D.C.No.B1/1227/2024:-** Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer of Public Convenience Toilets in Zones 1,2,3 and 4 in Chennai City - Approximate value of work – Rs.350.39 crore (Exclusive of GST) for duration of 9 years – Submission of E.M.D. Rs.1.04 crore through online net banking transaction/BG on e-tender portal only.
2. **S.P.D.C.No.B1/1228/2024:-** Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer of Public Convenience Toilets in Zones 7,8,9 and 10 in Chennai City - Approximate value of work – Rs.443.69 crore (Exclusive of GST) for duration of 9 years – Submission of E.M.D. Rs.1.00 crore through online net banking transaction/BG on e-tender portal only.
3. **S.P.D.C.No.B1/1229/2024:-** Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer of Public Convenience Toilets in Zones 11,12,13,14 and 15 in Chennai City - Approximate value of work – Rs.373.11 crore (Exclusive of GST) for duration of 9 years – Submission of E.M.D. Rs.0.93 crore through online net banking transaction/BG on e-tender portal only.

Tender document will be available in website : https://tntenders.gov.in | Pre-bid meeting date and Time : 04.09.2024 at 3.00 p.m.
Tender last date and time of submission : 15.10.2024 upto 3.00 p.m. | Tender opening date and time : 16.10.2024 at 3.00 p.m.

DIPR / 2966 / Tender / 2024 **Superintending Engineer (Special Projects)**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Engineer,PRE Division
Jawahar Road Koppal 583231 ,Karnataka .
Email: eepredkpl@gmail.com,
No:EE:PRED:DN:KPL:/DB/TENDER/2024-25/1048
Date: 08.08.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal, invites item rates tender through kppp one / two cover systems, Standard Bid Document **KW-1,2,3 & 4** under head of account 2023-24 KKRDB, different talukas of Koppal district PWD and PRE Department from eligible registered contractors . This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka . For more information contact above the office. Eligible contractors participate online by entering into kppp portal. **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.**

General instructions :- 1.Contractors participate in all tenders online only. 2.Pre-qualification documents should be uploaded by scanning all certificates & other concerned documents online only. 3.Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in eproc-portal.

For more information, contractors need to consult to below signed official, officer, contractors may get the information by going through. **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.** This notified works can be downloaded in **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal** from dated **12.08.2024.**

Tender Processing Fees: As per E-Procurement
Download of Schedule-B in Eproc Portal: From 12.08.2024 time after 10.00 AM upto 21.08.2024 time 16.00 Hours.
Tender Receipt last dates: From 08.07.2024 ,time after 10.00 AM upto 21.08.2024 Time 16.30 hrs: **Technical Bid open date and time (Both Technical & Financial bids are opened as same date for KW 1 & KW 2 ,KW-3 works):** 22.08.2024 in office hours.
Financial Bid open date and time : For KW 4 After getting Technical approval from competent authority, bid will be opened

Sd/-Executive Engineer, PRE Division Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/245/KSMCA/2024-25

कार्यालय संचालक, वन विहार राष्ट्रीय उद्यान
भदभदा रोड़ भोपाल-462003
E-mail: fdvanvmp.bpl@mp.gov.in Phone & Fax 0755-2674278

क्रमांक/भंडार/2341 भोपाल, दिनांक 06/08/24

ई -निविदा सूचना

प्रधान मुख्य संरक्षक (वन्यप्राणी) म.प्र. भोपाल में नीलगाय एवं ब्लैकबक कैप्चर ऑपरेशन के उपयोग हेतु माह सितम्बर 2024 से मार्च 2025 के दौरान हैलीकॉप्टर रॉबिन्सन 44 किताये पर लेने हेतु दर निर्धारण बाबत प्रतिष्ठान/फर्मों से प्रस्ताव निविदा दस्तावेज अनुसार निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित निविदा दस्ताबेज/प्रपत्र वेबसाईट https://mptenders/gov.in पर देखे जा सकते है। निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य राशि रु. 500/- ऑनलाईन पोर्टल पर क्रेडिट कार्ड/डेबिट कार्ड/इन्टरनेट बैंकिंग के माध्यम से भुगतान कर वेबसाईट https://mptenders/gov.in से क्रय किए जा सकेंगे।

1. ऑनलाईन निविदा क्रय करने की तिथि 13.08.2024 समय 12:30 दोपहर
2. Bid submission start date 13.08.2024 time 04:00 PM
3. Pre-bid meeting 22.08.2024 time 11:30 AM
4. Bid submission end date 02.09.2024 time 03:30 PM
5. Bid opening date 03.09.2024 time 03.30 PM

संचालक
वन विहार राष्ट्रीय उद्यान, भोपाल

G-14823/24

TENDER CUM AUCTION
THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT TRAINING CENTRE
JC NAGAR, BANGALORE-560006.

ALLOTMENT OF REGIMENTAL SHOPS

1. Sealed tenders are invited from interested War Widow / Widows of Defence Personnel Killed While on Duty / Disabled Soldiers / Ex-servicemen & Spouses / Widows of Ex-Servicemen subject to license period for a period of one year further extendable upto five years for running below mentioned Regimental Shop at the Parachute Regiment Training Centre, JC Nagar, Bangalore.

Sl. No.	Name of Shop	No. of Shops	Location	Remarks
(a)	Refreshment, Grocery & Veg Shop	01	Vasanth Enclave	
(b)	Vegetable Shop	01	Shopping Complex	
(c)	Wet Canteen / General Stores	01		
(d)	Tailor Shop	01		
(e)	Fruit & Juice Shop	01		
(f)	Café	01		Café will include sale of North Indian, Chinese and continential food alongwith beverages
(g)	Boot Maker & Equipment Repairer Shop	01	Near VTC	

2. Application form including terms & Conditions for running of above mentioned Regimental Shop can be obtained from the PRI Office of this Centre at the cost of Rs 500/- (Rupees five hundred only) each from 0900 hours to 1400 hours on all working days till 25 Aug. 2024. **Last date of submission of application form is 26 Aug. 2024.**
3. Interested parties can go around the shop(s) with prior permission from authority's before last date of submission of application form.
4. Bids are invited to be posted in tender box after which eligible candidates will bid in auction. Policies in vogue are applicable. Photocopy of supporting documents will be posted in tender box and original will be carried for auction.
5. Six months advance of monthly rebate of shop as a interest free refundable security amount will be deposited at the time of taking possession. If the licensee fails to run the allotted shop and vacates before the date of agreement refundable security deposit of six months will be forfeited.
5. The application will be enfaced with **"Application for Allotment of Regimental Shop"** on the envelope at the time of submission.

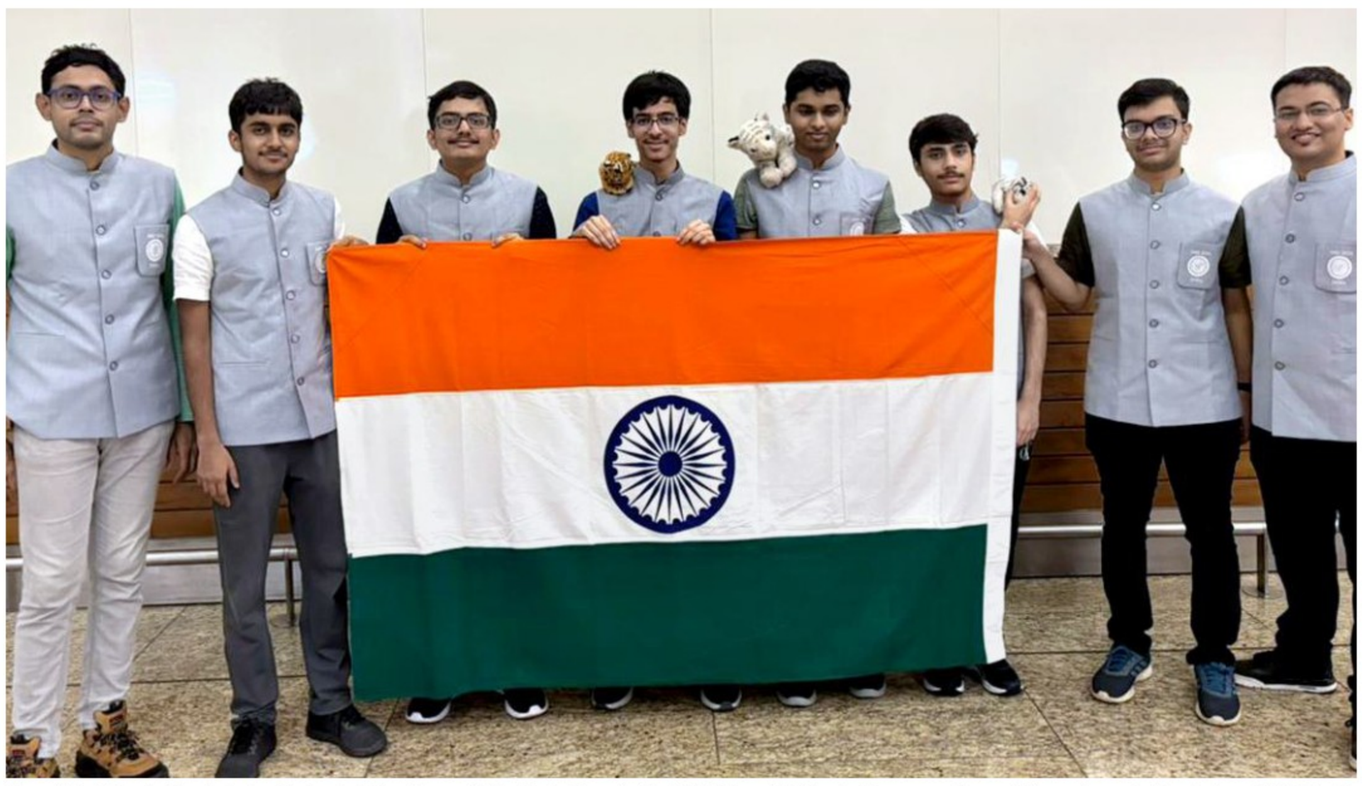
The Application shall be submitted to:

DEPUTY COMMANDANT
The Parachute Regiment Training Centre, JC Nagar, Bangalore-560006.

Behind India's record performance at International Math Olympiad 2024

What is it about this year's preparation that made team India's success possible? According to the national coordinator of the mathematics olympiad programme, this is explained in part by a collaboration between the Indian and Iranian Olympiad teams while preparing their respective candidates

Sayantan Datta



From left: Mainak Ghosh, Arjun Gupta, Adhitya Mangudy Venkata Ganesh, Rushil Mathur, Siddharth Choppara, Kanav Talwar, Ananda Bhaduri, and Rijul Saini. HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION

Mathematics always interested 18-year-old Ananda Bhaduri. Growing up in Guwahati, he spent his formative years learning topics not generally covered in school curricula. Last year, he dove into the expansive archives of mathematics problems on the internet, carefully curating the hardest ones and solving them – sometimes in solitude, and other times at online meetings with his friends.

When the results of the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) were declared earlier this year in July, Mr. Bhaduri was overjoyed when he found he had won a gold medal.

Mr. Bhaduri was a part of a six-member Indian team that created history at the IMO this year. He and three other members of the team won gold medals, one bagged a silver, and one received an honourable mention. Together, the Indian team ranked fourth among teams from 108 participating countries – the country's highest rank in the olympiad since its debut participation in 1989.

Tales of mathematical prowess often rely on tropes of prodigious talent. But in this case, the success story banks on meticulous practice and a cross-cultural collaboration.

The olympiad

The IMO is the oldest of the international science olympiads – annual international science competitions that attract pre-university students from around the world. Since 1959, when the first edition of the IMO was held in Romania, the olympiad has acquired a somewhat mythical status. Many of its medallists have eventually become notable mathematicians, with some even winning the Fields Medal, mathematics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

Terence Tao, widely regarded as one of the greatest mathematicians alive and a Fields Medallist, and the late Maryam Mirzakhani, the first woman to win the medal, were both IMO medallists.

Every year, more than a hundred countries send a team of six contestants to the IMO. Accompanying them is a team leader, a deputy leader, and a group of observers. This year, the IMO was held in Bath in the U.K.

The Indian team this year consisted of Adhitya Mangudy Venkata Ganesh (from Pune), Bhaduri (Guwahati), Kanav Talwar (Noida), Rushil Mathur (Mumbai), Arjun Gupta (Delhi), and Siddharth Choppara (Pune). The first four won gold medals, while Gupta won the silver; Choppara received the honourable mention for his performance.

Krishnan Sivasubramanian, professor of mathematics at IIT Bombay, and Rijul Saini, a visitor at the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Mumbai, were the leader and deputy leader of the team respectively. The two observers were Rohan Goyal, an undergraduate student at the Chennai Mathematical Institute, and Mainak Ghosh, a postdoctoral fellow at the Indian Statistical Institute, Bengaluru.

A different exam

While competitive examinations are not new for science students in India, the IMO sets itself apart both in its format and its syllabus. Unlike competitive examinations like the IIT-Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), where the focus is on solving a large number of problems in a limited amount of time, the IMO has only six problems of increasing difficulty that participants solve over two days. Successfully solving a problem counts for 7 marks, giving every participant a maximum of 42 marks to score in the olympiad.The problems come from topics that are typically covered in school (e.g. algebra and combinatorics) as well as those that are not, like number theory.

Algebra is the study of variables of unspecified values (typically x and y) and their manipulation through mathematical operations (like $x^2 + y$). Number theory is the branch of mathematics concerned with the properties of whole numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, ...) and arithmetic operations on them. Combinatorics – including permutations and combinations – deals with the ways objects can be counted, selected, and arranged.

Notably, the IMO's contestants are not required to have knowledge of calculus. The idea behind the problems, as the Wikipedia entry on the IMO states, is to create "an incentive to find elegant, deceptively simple-looking solutions which nevertheless require a certain level of ingenuity".

Making the cut

Mr. Bhaduri's tryst with the mathematics olympiad happened four years ago when he appeared for the first time in the Indian Olympiad Qualifier for Mathematics (IOQM). Passing the IOQM is the first step in making it to the eventual team of six that will represent the country at the IMO.

The next step is the Regional Math Olympiad (RMO), a three-hour exam in which participants solve six problems of "high level of difficulty and sophistication," per the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), the Mumbai-based institution that coordinates the selection and training of olympiad participants in India. Those selected from the RMO finally appear for the Indian National Math Olympiad (INMO).

Around 65 top performers of the INMO are selected to attend the International Mathematics Olympiad Training Camp (IMOTC). Here, several established mathematicians gather to strengthen students' understanding of mathematical concepts and to train them in problem-solving.

While Mr. Bhaduri's first attempt in 2020 got him selected to attend the IMOTC, the COVID-19 pandemic threw a spanner in the plans. When he was selected once again to attend the camp at the Chennai Mathematical Institute earlier this year, he was expectedly excited.

When he attended the camp, his excitement soared. "It was the best experience of my life," he told this reporter.In their time at the IMOTC, participants take several selection tests and the six top performers are selected to represent the country at the IMO. Before the team departs for the IMO venue, the HBCSE holds another training programme for the team for 8-10 days.

> The IMO is the oldest of the international science olympiads that attract pre-university students from around the world. Many of its medallists have become notable mathematicians, with some winning the Fields Medal

The secret to success

Prithwijit De, associate professor at the HBCSE and the national coordinator of the mathematics olympiad programme, said that when students arrive at the IMOTC, they often already have a strong grasp on foundational concepts in mathematics. "This is probably because they have access to multiple sources on the internet," he said. So the training camp trains students in topics they generally don't encounter in their school syllabi, and places them in a regimen of practicing difficult problems of the type expected in the IMO.

What about this year's preparation made team India's historic success possible? According to Dr. De, this is explained – at least partly – by the collaborative efforts between the Indian and Iranian olympiad teams while preparing the candidates.

For the first time, trainers from the two countries jointly prepared questions for practice tests that the two countries' IMO candidates then took together. This "cross-cultural collaboration", as Dr. De put it, was inspired by collaborative efforts between other olympiad teams. He gave the example of teams from the U.K. and Hungary, who he said "have been training together for a long time now".

That said, Dr. De said it might not be possible to delineate which individual aspects of the training contributed to the candidates' performance. This is because many of the candidates at the IMOTC have already independently trained for olympiads before coming to the camp.

For instance, Mr. Venkata Ganesh, another IMO gold medallist this year, has attributed his success to his training under M. Prakash, the founder of the Pune-based M. Prakash Institute that trains students for both competitive exams like the IIT-JEE and the olympiads.

"I don't know what percentage of our training helped them and what percentage of this cross-cultural training helped them. It's very hard to distinguish between the effects of all these factors," Dr. De said. "But this year, we tried something different."

Keeping it up

Other countries have shown interest in collaborating with the olympiad programme in India to train their candidates jointly, according to Dr. De. As a result the Indian team is planning to both continue its existing collaboration with the Iranian team as well as to expand the repertoire of collaborations.

A detailed training plan for this year is also being charted out by a "dynamic group full of young people," Dr. De said.

The HBCSE also plans to increase the participation of girls in the IMO. The lack of women in this year's team reflects a larger trend at the olympiad where less than 10% of participants between 2000 and 2021 were women.

In response, the U.K. launched the European Girls Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) in 2012, opening it up eventually to more than 50 countries around the world. Each country can send a four-member team to participate in the EGMO.

India debuted at the EGMO in 2015 and struggled to send a four-member team to the competition. It is only in the last "three or four editions", Dr. De said, "that we have had a full-strength team."

A group of 16 girls has already been selected for the EGMO training camp slated for December this year at the Chennai Mathematical Institute. From this group, a team of four will be selected to represent the country in EGMO 2025. "We hope that this will inspire more girls to come forward and take interest in the IMO," Dr. De added.

(The author thanks inputs by Vivek Tewary.

Sayantan Datta is a science journalist and a faculty member at Krea University. They tweet at @queersprings. dattasayantan95@gmail.com)

The Indian delegation to the 12th European Girls Mathematical Olympiad, held from April 13-19, 2023, (EGM 02023) in Slovenia. From left: Rohan Goyal, Bhavya Sree N. Naga, Sunaina Pati, Gunjan Aggrawal, Sanjana Chaklo, Dr. Aditi Phadke. HOMI BHABHA CENTRE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION

The Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education in Mumbai. HBCSE

ChatGPT tends to favour certain words, giving away its use. JONATHAN KEMPER/UNSPLASH

Scientists brace for 'flood of junk' papers written by AI

Agence France Presse

An infographic of a rat with a preposterously large penis. Another showing human legs with way too many bones. An introduction that starts: "Certainly, here is a possible introduction for your topic."

These are a few of the most egregious examples of artificial intelligence that have recently made their way into scientific journals, shining a light on the wave of AI-generated text and images washing over the academic publishing industry.

Several experts who track down problems in studies told AFP that the rise of AI has turbocharged the existing problems in the multi-billion-dollar sector.

All the experts emphasised that AI programmes such as ChatGPT can be a helpful tools for writing or translating papers if thoroughly checked and disclosed.

But that was not the case for several recent cases that somehow snuck past peer review. Earlier this year, a clearly AI-generated graphic of a rat with impossibly huge genitals was shared widely on social media. It was published in a journal of academic giant Frontiers, which later retracted the study.

Another study was retracted last month for an AI graphic showing legs with odd multi-jointed bones that resembled hands.

While these examples were images, it is thought to be ChatGPT, a chatbot launched in November 2022, that has most changed how the world's researchers present their findings.

Such embarrassing examples are rare and would be unlikely to make it through the peer review process at the most prestigious journals, several experts told AFP.

More than 13,000 papers were retracted last year, by far the most in history, according to the US-based group Retraction Watch

It isn't always easy to spot the use of AI. But one clue is that ChatGPT tends to favour certain words.

Andrew Gray, a librarian at University College London, trawled through millions of papers searching for the overuse of words such as 'meticulous', 'intricate', or 'commendable.'

He determined that at least 60,000 papers involved the use of AI in 2023, over 1% of the annual total.

"For 2024, we are going to see very significantly increased numbers," Gray said.

Meanwhile, more than 13,000 papers were retracted last year, by far the most in history, according to the US-based group Retraction Watch.

AI has allowed the bad actors in scientific publishing and academia to "industrialise the overflow" of "junk" papers, Retraction Watch co-founder Ivan Oransky said.

Such bad actors include paper mills: "scammers" that sell authorship to researchers, pumping out vast amounts of very poor quality, plagiarised or fake papers, said Elisabeth Bik, a Dutch researcher who detects scientific image manipulation. And as AI opens the floodgates, she added, paper mills' output is "exploding."

Oransky emphasised that the problem was not just paper mills, but a broader academic culture that pushes researchers to "publish or perish." The insatiable demand for ever-more papers piles pressure on academics who are ranked by their output, creating a "vicious cycle," he said.

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Agnipath recruitment rally in Shivamogga

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Army Recruiting Office of Mangaluru will hold a recruitment rally under the Agnipath Scheme at Nehru Stadium in Shivamogga from August 22 to 31. The office has already sent admission cards for the physical and medical examinations to eligible candidates by mail.

The rally is being organised for applicants from Shivamogga, Davangere, Bagalkot, Vijayapura, Dharward, Uttara Kannada, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Gadag, Haveri, and Chikkamagaluru districts, said an official press release.

Potholes worsen traffic on flooded roads

Several roads that were inundated had potholes and two-wheelers got stuck in them, some of them even half a foot deep

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The pothole-riddled city roads added to the woes of the commuters on Monday, who were navigating through the inundated roads. Despite Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) tall claims of having been filling potholes, the reality was different.

Several roads that were waterlogged had potholes and two-wheelers got stuck in them, some of them even half a foot deep. Even Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K Shivakumar highlighted this issue during his visit to flood-hit areas.

Praful S., who commutes on the Outer Ring Road daily to the office, said, "My bike tyre fell into a pothole and I almost lost balance. However, somehow I managed to gain balance again."

He said even during normal days, motorists have to navigate through these potholes and it is a back-breaking ride. He added that the BBMP had filled potholes on a few stretches, but now they have resurfaced. Another commuter who frequently travels on Bannerghatta Road said there are hundreds of potholes along this stretch from Vega City Mall to Bilekahalli. "During the peak hours, the traffic slows down only due to potholes. During rain, bikes fall due to water accumulating in the potholes," the commuter who wished not to be named, added.

BBMP officials in the Road Infrastructure Department said the BBMP recently filled many potholes but due to continuous rain these potholes have resurfaced.

Many areas of Whitefield remained flooded following heavy rain in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BBMP had filled potholes on a few stretches, but now they have resurfaced

DKS inspects flood-hit areas in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar visited several areas in Bengaluru that were affected by heavy rains on Monday morning.

Floodwaters had caused significant damage in locations including Yogeshwar Nagar near Hebbal, Nagawara Junction, HBR Layout 5th Block, Silk Board, and Jayadeva Junction.

During his visit, Mr. Shivakumar assessed the situation and directed officials to take necessary actions.

After inspecting the flow of water near the flyover at Yogeshwar Nagar, he instructed officials to clear all construction debris that had been left behind after the completion of various works.

At Silk Board Junction, while inspecting the rajakaluve (stormwater drain), Mr. Shivakumar expressed dissatisfaction and said BBMP officials had been negligent in maintaining the stormwater drains. "I have instructed that any construction debris left in the drains, especially from BMRCL's work sites, should be removed immediately. Additionally, narrow water flow channels in certain areas need to be widened," he said.

Earlier, in the morning at Maruti Sevanagar, a tree had fallen, injuring four people. Mr. Shivakumar visited a private hospital in Banaswadi where the injured were admitted and said that all medical expenses would be covered by the BBMP.

Responding to media questions later, Mr. Shivakumar said, "During my city tour, I noticed numerous potholes on the roads. Due to heavy rains, some of these potholes are nearly half a foot deep. I have instructed the officials to fill them out immediately. I have also asked the police to report the locations of all such potholes."

Sindhur dead

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Pro-Kannada activist M.S. Sidhur, who fought for the cause of unification of Karnataka, died at Tungal in Bagalkot district on Monday. He was 93. Mr. Sindhur served as a Kannada teacher in Jath and other taluks in Maharashtra.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

India's industrial production growth in the month of June

4.2 In per cent. The country's industrial production slowed to a five-month low in June 2024, mainly due to poor performance of the manufacturing sector, though the power and mining sectors performed well. PTI

People who fled the Kursk region since Ukraine's attack

1.2 In lakh. Kyiv launched a surprise offensive into Russia's western Kursk region last Tuesday, capturing over two dozen settlements in the most significant cross-border attack on Russian soil since World War II. AFP

The increase in India's direct tax collections from last year

24 In per cent. The government's gross direct tax collections for April 1 to August 11 rose to ₹8.13 trillion ($96.87 billion). Net direct tax collections, after adjusting for refunds, were ₹6.93 trillion during the period, about 22.5% higher than last year. REUTERS

Distress calls received by Gujarat's DWUG suicide helpline

1,600 The Diamond Workers Union Gujarat (DWUG) has received distress calls from those in the sector over financial stress. 65 diamond workers have committed suicide in Surat in the last 16 months. PTI

People affected by micronutrient deficiencies globally

2.2 In billion. According to the Global Food Policy Report, poor-quality diets are the main reason for all forms of malnutrition and the leading cause of various diseases worldwide. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On the allegations against the SEBI chief

What are the accusations brought forth by New York-based Hindenburg Research against SEBI Chairman Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch? How is Blackstone involved? What is the status of the ongoing investigation by SEBI into the Adani Group's actions?

EXPLAINER

Saptaparno Ghosh

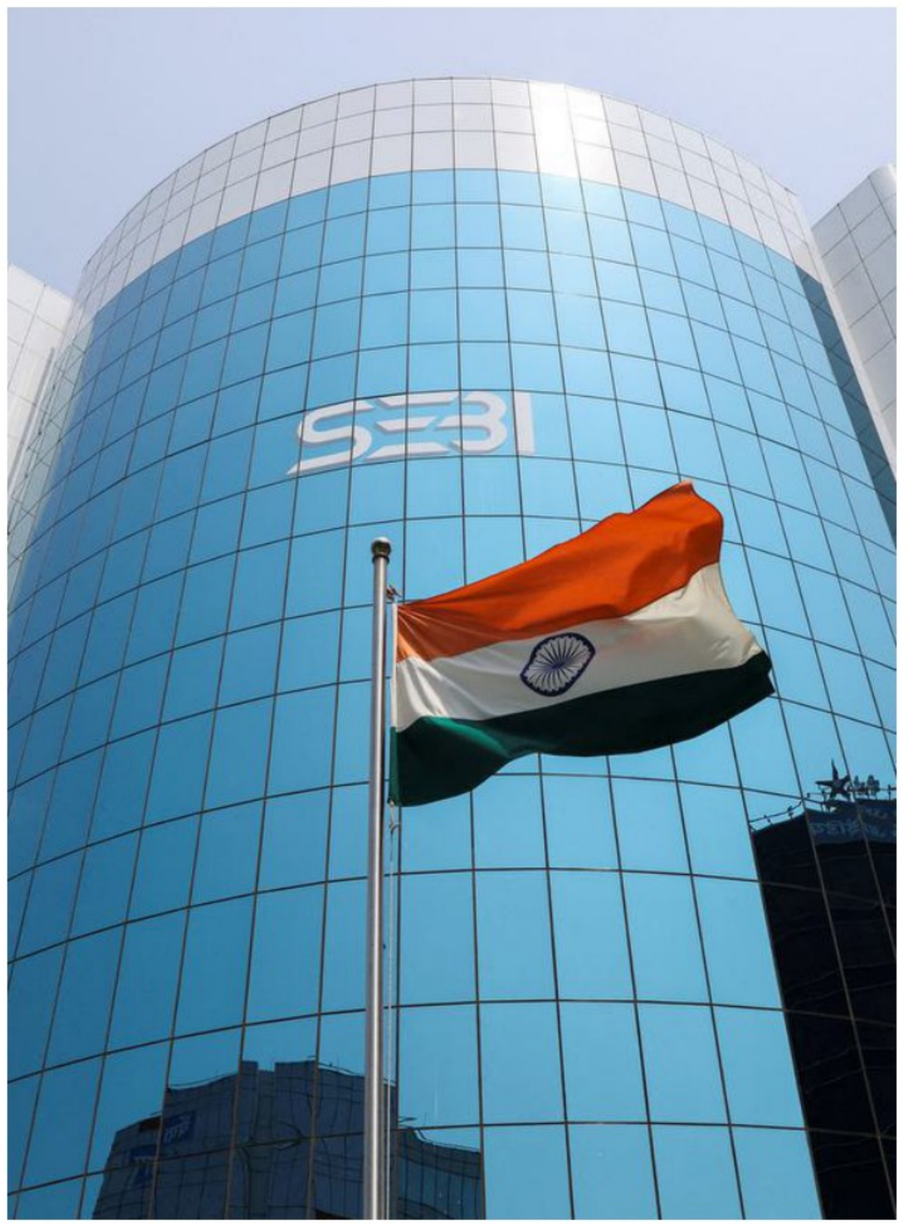
The story so far:
New York-based Hindenburg Research has released a new set of documents to substantiate its accusation that the ongoing investigation into insider trading and other stock market violations by the Adani Group by India's financial regulator – the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) – is compromised. In its latest tranche, Hindenburg has included emails and publicly available records of stakes held by SEBI Chairman Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch in Adani Group-related entities through offshore investment funds to allege a conflict of interest that aided the Adani Group to "syphon monies". The short seller attempts to establish a correlation between the alleged use of two offshore funds, the couple's investments and varied professional engagements to accuse Ms. Buch of being biased toward the Adani Group. Both Ms. Buch and the Adani Group have denied the charge.

What is short selling about?
Short selling entails profiting from a fall in the prices of a scrip. Although short selling can serve many purposes, such as mitigating demand-supply imbalances in scrips and ensuring price efficiency, it has also been used as a means of manipulation – or what the U.S Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has described as a "bear raid". Thus, prompting concerns about intent and credibility. As a practice, it entails selling a borrowed scrip in anticipation of a downward price movement and buying it back when the lower price level is realised. Let us say, anticipating a downward movement, an individual sells 10 shares at ₹100 apiece. The total sale value is ₹1,000. The price of the share decreases to ₹85 apiece and they opt to buy the quantity back. This time it will cost them ₹850 – a direct profit of ₹150.

The short seller in discussion had shorted electric truck maker Nikola Corp in 2020 placing concerns about their functionality. In October 2022, the Nikola's founder Trevor Milton was convicted by a U.S. jury of fraud for lying to investors about the technology.

What is the SEBI chief accused of?
At the centre of the allegations are the Buchs' alleged "hidden stakes" in certain offshore funds in Bermuda and Mauritius, two tax havens, and their professional engagements during and before Ms. Buch's tenure at SEBI. Hindenburg asserts concern on two fronts, a conflict of interest and an ensuing collusion.

About personal investments: gathering from investigations by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), the short seller points to Vinod Adani, brother of Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, who invested in the Bermuda-based 'Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund' (GDOF), which then invested in the Mauritius-based IPE Plus Fund 1. A separate investigation by the *Financial Times* said that the parent fund of GDOF, that is, the Global Opportunities Fund (GOF) were used by two Adani associates, Nasser Ali Shaban Ahli from UAE and Chang Chung-Ling from Taiwan, to amass and acquire large positions in scrips of the conglomerate, amounting to stock manipulation. Additionally, as per the Hindenburg report, the founder and Chief Investment Officer (CIO) of the IPE Plus Fund was Anil Ahuja, director at Adani Enterprises for nine years until 2017.



REUTERS

The Buchs opened an account with the Mauritius-based fund in 2015. The short seller places that SEBI's alleged unwillingness to take "meaningful action" (in the ongoing investigation) could stem from the chairperson's "complicity" in using the exact same funds as Mr. Adani.

The other set of accusations relate to their professional engagements. In 2013, Ms. Buch had set up a consulting firm Agora Partners in India and Singapore respectively. Important to note that she became a whole-time member with SEBI in April 2017 before being elevated as the chairperson in March 2022. SEBI's Code on Conflict of Interests for Members of Board stipulates that whole-time members can neither hold any office of profit nor engage in any professional activity that involves receiving any fees or payment. However, the short seller accuses her of transferring only the 100% stake in the Singapore unit (not the Indian one) after her appointment to the top post, and that too only in 2022. In an X post responding to the Buchs statement Hindenburg says: "Buch remained a 100% shareholder of Agora Partners Singapore until March 16th, 2022, per Singaporean records, owning it during her entire time as a SEBI Whole Time Member. She only transferred her shares into her husband's name 2 weeks after her appointment as SEBI Chairperson."

The last set of accusations concern her husband, Dhaval Buch. The short seller stated that Mr. Buch notwithstanding a lack of prior experience in either real estate nor fund management, was appointed senior advisor at the investment management firm Blackstone in 2019. With Ms. Buch employed at SEBI and later at the helm of affairs, the report accuses, that SEBI "proposed, approved and facilitated" major changes to real-estate investment trusts' (REITs) policies and rules on listing and other stock market related activities. Thus, enabling Blackstone – "one of the largest REIT sponsors in India" – to benefit from the changes, Hindenburg alleged.

What has been the recent exchange about their investments?
In a detailed statement, the Buchs said the investments referred to in Hindenburg's report were made two years before Ms. Buch joined SEBI. While addressing concerns about collusion, the Buchs stated the investment was undertaken considering Mr. Ahuja's "strong investing career" and that he was also Mr. Buch's "childhood friend" and a batchmate at IIT Delhi. Re-emphasising their argument, they pointed to redeeming their investment in the fund when Mr. Ahuja stepped down as its CIO in 2018. The joint statement further affirms that at no point the fund invested in any bond, equity or derivative of the Adani conglomerate.

However, Hindenburg in its response on 'X', said the response only confirmed the investment in the offshore fund. Mr. Ahuja also served as a director at the Adani Group until 2017, something the conglomerate has also mentioned in their response to the short-seller's allegations. Hindenburg emphasised the Buchs' investments in the offshore fund was first made in 2015, when Mr. Ahuja was still a director at the Adani Group. The short seller also pointed to Ms. Buch's communications in 2017 and 2018. In 2017, Mr. Buch had sought that the ownership be transferred entirely to him. However, in 2018, during her tenure as a whole-time SEBI member, Ms. Buch sought to redeem the units in the fund – prompting concerns about continued engagement.

What about the consulting firm?
The statement from the Buchs also stated that two consulting companies in discussion had become "immediately dormant on her appointment with SEBI". This was also disclosed to SEBI. It further informs that Dhaval Buch in 2019, started his own consultancy practice with "prominent clients in the Indian industry" enabled by his deep expertise in "supply chain" management.

In their 'X' post however, Hindenburg accused the SEBI chief of still holding a 99% stake in the Indian consulting entity, and not her husband. The entity, it said, was active and generated revenues to the tune of $3,12,000 between financial years 2022-2024, when Ms. Buch was the SEBI chief. About the Singapore unit, the short seller said Ms. Buch only transferred the stake in 2022, after becoming the chairperson and held it during her entire tenure as a whole-time member.

Hindenburg further alluded to more conflict of interest concerns based on the firm's clientele (if they are regulated by SEBI) and its revenue. The short seller expresses its inability to trace the same (about the Singapore unit) citing the local legislation exempting the firm from making disclosures. However, it deems the information as necessary to assess the "probity of the chairperson's external business".

What of the Blackstone appointment?
About Mr. Buch's appointment at Blackstone, the couple stated that the appointment was on account of Mr. Buch's expertise in supply chain management. It furthers states that at no point was Dhaval Buch associated with the real-estate side of Blackstone.

In fact, it also informs about Blackstone Group being immediately added to the incumbent SEBI chief's recusal list. The markets regulator in its standalone statement also described Hindenburg's accusations as "inappropriate". The statement other than explaining the mandatory exhaustive consultation process, also pointed to having underscored the potential of REITs, SM REITs, InvITs and Municipal Bonds among other asset classes for democratisation of markets, financialisaton of household savings and for capital formation through markets.

Where do we stand now?
The Supreme Court in an order this January had, among other things, sought SEBI to also probe whether the losses suffered by Indian investors because of Hindenburg's erstwhile report involved any "infraction of the law". SEBI issued a show cause notice to the short seller this June. "It is unfortunate that instead of replying to the show cause notice, they have chosen to attack the credibility of SEBI and attempt character assassination of the Chairperson," SEBI said. In an order dated January 3, the SC had also asked SEBI to complete the investigation into the pending two allegations of the twenty-four overall ones within three months. It informed on Sunday about having completed one of them and the other being "close to completion".

In fact, the apex court in the same order had refused to transfer the investigation from SEBI to the Special Investigative Team (SIT) or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). But it noted that it would exercise its powers in "extraordinary circumstances" if the competent authority displays a "glaring, wilful and deliberate" inaction in carrying out the investigation.

THE GIST

- New York-based Hindenburg Research has released a new set of documents to substantiate its accusation that the ongoing investigation into insider trading and other stock market violations by the Adani Group by India's financial regulator — the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) — is compromised.
- At the centre of the allegations are the Buchs' alleged "hidden stakes" in certain offshore funds in Bermuda and Mauritius, two tax havens, and their professional engagements during and before Ms. Buch's tenure at SEBI.
- The Supreme Court in an order this January had, among other things, sought SEBI to also probe whether the losses suffered by Indian investors because of Hindenburg's erstwhile report involved any "infraction of the law".

Premier institutes IISc and NLSIU top NIRF-2024 ranking list

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Some of the premier institutes of Karnataka topped the National Institutes of Ranking Framework (NIRF-2024) list this year.

Indian Institute of Science (IISc)-Bengaluru claimed the first place in top 100 universities in the University category, it bagged the best institution for research category and emerged as the second best educational institution of the country in the overall category.

Similarly for law, the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru is in the first place. In Management education, Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIM-B) has occupied second place. The Department of Higher Education and Ministry of Education of the Union government released the ranking conducted by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) and National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) on Monday.

Other institutions

In the Overall category, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal stood at 14th, JSS Academy of Higher Education at 36th, National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal-46th, Mysore University 86th, and Christ University has got 90th position.

In the Colleges category, St. Joseph's College of Commerce claimed 55th rank, St. Aloysius College 58th, Kristu Jayanti College got 60th, M.S.Ramaiah College of Arts, Science, and Commerce got 87th rank.

> Education, technology, infrastructure, and the comprehensive development of the university have gained further strength. Bangalore University will work harder for all-round development
>
> **DR. JAYAKARA S.M.**
> Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University

NITK-Suratkal has achieved 17th rank in the Engineering category. Following this, Manipal Institute of Technology 56th, Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) 69th, International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIITB) 74th, M.S.Ramaiah Institute of Technology 75th, Christ University at 93rd, Jain University, Bangalore 95th, R.V. College of Engineering at 99th, Siddaganga Institute of Technology has got 100th place in the ranking list. In the Management category, T.A. Pai Management Institute, Manipal stood at 58, Christ University at 60, Alliance Universitya at 71 and Jain University has got 77th rank.

In the Medical category, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) has got 4th rank, Kasturba Medical College-Manipal 9th, St.John's Medical College 28th, Kasturba Medical College-Mangalore 33rd, JSS Medical College-Mysore 39th and M.S. Ramaiah Medical College has got 46th rank.

Among the State's Public Universities that made a remarkable achievement in the NIRF ranking list is Mysore University got 19th rank, Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) 22nd, Bangalore University 24th, University of Agricultural Sciences 44th rank.

In the Law category, Christ University has got 15th rank and Alliance University 18th rank.

In the Agriculture category, University of Agricultural Sciences UAS-Bengaluru has got 11th rank and UAS-Dharwad has got 24th rank. However, NLSIU-Bengaluru has expressed its happiness about the ranking that, we are honoured and proud to be ranked 1 in the NIRF rankings for the 7th year in a row. "NLS has successfully maintained a seven-year streak as the top university in the category of law rankings," it said. Dr. Jayakara S.M., Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University said that it is a matter of pride for the our university to be ranked in the NIRF ranking. "Education, research, technology, infrastructure, and the comprehensive development of the university have gained further strength. Bangalore University will work harder for all-round development of the students. I would like to thank and congratulate those responsible for this achievement," he said.

Many govt. primary schools closed due to teachers' protest

SDMCs express displeasure over teachers' participation in the protest by boycotting classes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Several government primary schools across Karnataka remained closed following protests by the Primary School Teachers' Association in Bengaluru on Monday demanding fulfilment of their demands including the designation of qualified government primary school teachers appointed to teach classes 1 to 7 before 2016 as Graduate Primary Teachers (GPT) and changes in the Cadre and Recruitment Rules (C&R rules) in this regard.

Members of Karnataka State Primary School Teachers' Association staging a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Warnings

Despite warnings of disciplinary action from the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL), most primary school teachers boycotted classes and participated in the protest.

As a result, many single-teacher schools were completely closed. On Monday morning, the children who came to school as usual went home.

However, in some primary schools, only guest teachers worked and most permanent teachers were absent.

The School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs) expressed their displeasure over the teachers' participation in the protest by boycotting classes.

"Schoolchildren were deprived of a day's class, midday meals, hot milk and educational activities," lamented Umesh G. Gangavadi, State president of SDMC.

However, a massive protest was held at Freedom Park in Bengaluru and thousands participated.

Speaking in the protest, Mukhyamantri Chandru, president of Aam Admi Party (AAP), Karnataka, said, "Instead of listening to the words of the State government officials, the government should take quick action to correct the injustices being done to the primary teachers."

Demands

Major demands of teachers include: All teachers appointed till 2017 to teach classes 1 to 7 should be designated as GPT teachers, with seniority of service and C&R rules should be changed in this regard. An order should be issued that the C&R rules implemented in 2017 do not apply to the teachers appointed before 2016. And, the teachers appointed before 2016 to teach classes 1 to 7 should be restricted to classes 1 to 5 and designated as PST should be withdrawn.

Qualified primary school teachers recruited before 2016 should be promoted to high school.

Primary school teachers should be promoted to the post of Head Master on the basis of seniority.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (August 13, Tuesday), the following explainers are available:

- What is the latest revelation by Hindenburg on the SEBI chief all about? **bit.ly/hindenburgexp**
- Behind India's record performance at International Math Olympiad 2024 **bit.ly/matholympiadindia**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Elderly woman killed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 69-year-old woman was killed when a garbage truck knocked her down at Jambu Savari Dinne on Monday.

The deceased Adilakshmi was going to board a bus when the incident occurred.

She was rushed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared her as brought dead.

The KS layout police arrested the driver identified as Mohammed and seized the truck.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Sri. Kiran Kumar R. Jiral, S/o. Late. Rajashekar N Jiral & Smt. Rashmi D. W/o. Sri. Udaya Kumar E,** have intending to purchase of the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owners **Smt. Ramakka W/o. Sri. Nanjappa and her children Smt. Chinnamma, Sri. Srinivas, Sri. Lakshmikanth, Sri. Ravikumar N, Smt. Dhanalakshmi**, all are residing at No. 17, 4th D Cross, Maruthi Nagar, Madiwala, Bangalore-560068.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

Residential Plot bearing **No. 14,** BBMP Form-B Sl. No. 6, property No. 14, measuring East to West 32 Ft & North to South 37 Ft. total measuring 1184 sq.ft. formed in land bearing Sy. No. 85/1, situated at **4th D Cross, Maruthi Nagar Madiwala Extn, Thavarekere Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** and bounded on the :

East by : Road, West by : Nursery Garden of Murthappa, North by : Plot No. 15, South by : Plot No. 13.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K.N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, B.A. L.L.B.,
ROOPA.B, BL. L.L.B.
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E-mail : mcharyadvocate@gmail.com
Mobile : 98459 65626, 7406090832

Date: 12-08-2024. Bangalore

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, AUG. 13	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:41
RISE 12:57	SET 00:00
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:41
RISE 13:52	SET 00:30
THURSDAY, AUG. 15	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:40
RISE 14:50	SET 01:22

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	29	19

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C Day will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to continue.

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THE HINDU
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Resident doctors start indefinite strike

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The resident doctors, including interns, super-speciality residents, and senior residents from all government medical colleges across Karnataka, began an indefinite strike demanding revision of stipend on Monday.

Karnataka Resident Doctors' Association members staging a protest in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Hundreds of resident doctors under the aegis of the Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors (KARD) staged a protest at Freedom Park of Bengaluru, boycotting medical services. However, the protest of resident doctors did not cause any problem in providing healthcare services in the government medical colleges and hospitals.

Speaking in the protest, Dr. Sirish Shivaramaiah, president of KARD said, "Currently, resident doctors in Karnataka are getting the lowest stipend in the country. Our stipend is about 50% of what doctors in other States receive. It fails to cover living costs, academic expenses, and family needs, exacerbated by inflation. Despite working long hours, our stipends remain unchanged and insufficient." "For now, our protest will not cause any problem at government medical colleges, but we are not responsible for service variations in future. We hope the government will respond to our request soon," he said.

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, ARVIND parashar, F/o, Nb/ Sub Mohit kumar, JC No 344753L R/A No 136 A, Karai Ganj, Rajban, Chhota Bazar, Meerut, Meerut Cantt, Uttar Pradesh,-250001, Hereby declare that My correct Name is Arvind parashar and not Arvind Kumar parashar and my actual date of birth is 02-08-1964 and not 10-06-1962. Vide affidavit Dtd 30-07-2024, before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar- Bangalore-32

I, SUNEETA, M/o, Nb/ Sub Mohit kumar, JC No 344753L R/A No 136 A, Karai Ganj, Rajban Chhota Bazar, Meerut, Meerut Cantt, Uttar Pradesh,-250001, Hereby declare that My correct Name is Suneeta and not Sunita Devi and my actual date of birth is 01-01-1963 Vide affidavit Dtd 30-07-2024, before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar- Bangalore-32

CHANGE OF NAME

I MANI H S residing @ 2871, Pampapathi road, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-570009 has changed my name as Mangali, Sworn before Advocate & Notary Venkatesha. Date 11.02.2023

I, MOHAMMED Haroon, R/at No.8/11, 'D' Street, Old Police Lane, Mackan Road, HKP Road, Bangalore-560051, have changed my minor daughter's name from Shagufta to Afreen Begum vide affidavit dated 10/08/2024 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bengaluru.

I, RAJASAWARI Davi, W/o Dayal Singh Bist, R/at # D-1204, 12th Floor, Nagarjuna Meadows Apartment, Phase-1, Doddaballapur Main Road, Puttenahalli, Yelahanka New Town, Yelahanka Post, Bangalore Dist -560064, have changed my name from Rajasawari Davi to Rajeshwari Bist vide affidavit dated 10/08/2024 before Notary K.Mohan, Bengaluru.

I, VISHNU Vardhan.T.K, R/at No.121, Pushpam E-Town, BEML Co-op. Society Layout, Medahalli Sarjapur Attibele Road, Bengaluru Rural-562107 have changed my minor son's name from Pradyumna Thirumalai Vishnu to Dhruva Pradyumna Thirumalai Vishnu vide affidavit dated 12/08/2024 before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, J Ajay Narasimha, S/o Jagannath, R/at No.25, 80 Feet Road, Near Big Bazar, 4th Block, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085, have changed my name from J Ajay Narasimha to Ajay Narasimha Jagannath vide affidavit dated 12/08/2024 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

I, SIRODARIYA Kiranben Kishorbhai, R/at No.22, Millienium Apts, 5th Main 1st Stage, BEML Layout, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore - 560079 have changed my name from Sirodariya Kiranben Kishorbhai to Kiranben Kartik Vasant vide affidavit dated 12/08/2024 before Notary V. Rajashekhara, Bangalore.

I, SATEESH Vittappa, R/@ No. 1874, New No. 37, 5th Main Road, Hampinagar, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560040, Karnataka India, have changed my name from Sateesh Vittappa to Sateesh V. Shenoy (Sateesh Vittappa Shenoy), vide affidavit dated: 12/08/2024, sworn to before Notary Public, K. H. Jagadish, Bangalore. I shall be known as Sateesh V. Shenoy, for all future purposes.

LOST & FOUND

I, SHOBHA N, aged about 49 years, W/o K Srinivas, residing at No. NA 266, 5th Cross, Nagaland Circle, BEL Colony, Jalahalli, Bengaluru – 560013, have lost original Sale Deed Documents No. BNG(U)-YLNK/571/2003-2004, in Book No.1, dated 17/04/2003, registered in the office of the Sr. Sub-Registrar, Yelahanka Bangalore, for immovable vacant property bearing Site No. 18, Old VP Khatha No. 51, BBMP Khatha No. 830/51/80 situated at Thindlu, Yelahanka Hobli, presently Yelahanka Taluk, previously Bengaluru North Taluk, Layout known as "Nandawat" Layout (Veeranna Layout), measuring East to West: 61 Feet, North to South: 40 Feet, totally measuring 2440 Square Feet, by namma metro train on 08.06.2024 b/w 11 to 11.30 pm. I have given a police complaint in this regard with Lost Report No. 1183916/2024. If found, Please contact on 8095977680.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/ಕೆಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಬಿ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ತಾಸ/2024–25/724 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12.08.2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ) ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಯ ವಿವರ: (1) Package No. YDG-SRP-01-2022-23-KKRBD-(3 Works) Govt. First Grade College to Kembhavi Town. (2) Package No. YDG-SRP-02-2022-23-KKRBD-(3 Works) Govt. First Grade College to Shorapur Town. (3) Package No. YDG-YDG-01-2022-23-KKRBD-(3 Works) Govt. First Grade College to Gurmitakal Town. (4) Package No. YDG-YDG-02-2022-23-KKRBD-(3 Works) Govt. First Grade Women College to Yadgir Town. **1) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶಿರ್ಷಿಕೆ:** 2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ. ಯೋಜನೆ **2) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 119.47 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 159.88 ಲಕ್ಷ **3) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ :** 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **4) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 14.08.2024 ರಿಂದ 22.08.2024 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 22.08.2024 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **7) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರೀಕ :** 26.08.2024 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ :** 31.08.2024 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ) :** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. **10) ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:** http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಸೂಚನೆ :– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್
ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/144/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ.&ಎ/2024–25

Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
Ph: 080-22215601, 22211246. Fax: 080-22215602

No: DYES/ES/06/2023-24 **Date: 06.08.2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E- Procurement Portal Only)

The Deputy Director (Admn), Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender for Providing waterproofing and leakage arrest to Indoor badminton hall at Sri Kanteerava Indoor stadium, Bengaluru and Preparation of Detailed project report and providing project management and consultancy services for Construction of Cycling Velodrome at Mysuru through,

Sl. No.	Particulars	Tender Amount	EMD	Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid	Last Date and Time for Opening of technical bid
1	Providing waterproofing and leakage arrest to Indoor badminton hall at Sri Kanteerava Indoor stadium, Bengaluru	Rs 46.27 Lakhs	Rs 46,267.00	13.08.2024 time 16.00 Hrs	14.08.2024 time 16.30 Hrs
2	Preparation of Detailed project report and providing project management and consultancy services for Construction of Cycling Velodrome At Mysuru	-	Rs 1,00,000.00	13.08.2024 time 16.00 Hrs	14.08.2024 time 16.30 Hrs

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.

Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin) and
TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports

DIPR/CP/1424/AKAR/2024-25

ಕರಾಸಕೈಉನಿನಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಣ್ಣ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಕಛೇರಿ : ಆಡಳಿತ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಸಾಹತು, ರಾಜಾಜಿನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು –560 010
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : kssidcho@karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ : www.kssidc.co.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಮನ್ವಯ:ನಿವೇಶನ:ಹಂಚಿಕೆ:ಪುನರ್‌ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ:2024 ದಿನಾಂಕ 09.08.2024

ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸಣ್ಣ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತದ ವಿವಿಧ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಸಾಹತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಹಂಚಿಕೆದಾರರು ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳಂತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಮನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಸಾಹತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆದಾರರು 02 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಒಳಗೆ, ಇತರೆ ಬೇರೆ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ವಸಾಹತುಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಹಂಚಿಕೆದಾರರು 05 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಒಳಗೆ ತಮಗೆ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾಗಿರುವ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ, ನೀಲಿನಕ್ಷೆ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ಪಡೆದು, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಪಡೆದು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಬೇಕೆಂಬ ನಿಯಮವಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಆದರೆ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆದಾರರು ಈ ಕಾಲಮಿತಿಯೊಳಗೆ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. **ನಿಗಮದ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ನಿಯಮ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರಾರು ಒಪ್ಪಂದ ಕರಾರುಗಳನ್ನು ಉಲ್ಲಂಘಿಸಿರುವ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ದಂಡವನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು, ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಪುನರ್ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ನೀಡಿ, ಹಂಚಿಕೆಯಾದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಕಟ್ಟಡವನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಮಿಸಿ, ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸಲು ದಿನಾಂಕ 22.06.2015 ರಿಂದ ಹಂಚಿಕೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಡಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇದನ್ನು ಕಾಲಾಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಮುಂದುವರೆದು, ಈ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 30.09.2024 ರವರೆಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯದಾಗಿ ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.** ಈ ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ಸದುಪಯೋಗಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಹಂಚಿಕೆದಾರರುಗಳಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಇದರ ಸದುಪಯೋಗಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ನಿಯಮಗಳಂತೆ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸದೇ ಇದ್ದ ಪಕ್ಷದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸಿ ನಿಗಮದ ಸುಪರ್ದಿಗೆ ಪಡೆದು, ಹಂಚಿಕೆದಾರರು ಪಾವತಿಸಿರುವ ಮೊತ್ತವನ್ನು ಮುಟ್ಟುಗೋಲು ಹಾಕಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗುವುದೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜಿಎ/1428/2024–25

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BUILDING BLOCKS

The tech that helps vehicles from bumping into each other

Most collision avoidance systems require two pieces of information: the locations of all the other vehicles and the location of this vehicle relative to those vehicles

Vasudevan Mukunth

Vehicular traffic is a mainstay of modern life. And therefore, the number of transport options people have invented and the number of places to deploy them in have increased. Today, we have traffic on the road, in the air, across various water bodies, and – in a dubitable sign of progress – in space. For better or for worse, we can't roll this traffic back very much, so we have collision avoidance systems instead.

What is a collision avoidance system?
In broad terms, a collision avoidance system (CAS) is a collection of technologies to help a vehicle steer clear of another vehicle or obstacle. For example, a CAS device fit on a train will be designed to help that train avoid colliding with another train. Most CAS devices require two pieces of information, preferably in real-time: the locations of all the other vehicles and the location of this vehicle relative to those vehicles. Over the years, scientists and engineers have developed instruments that collect this information and transmit it and other instruments that receive this information and aid in the navigation of the vehicle.

Such a vehicle can be driven by a human, in which case CAS's purpose would be to assist the driver, or be autonomous.

How does CAS help land-based vehicles?
Say two cars, called the Front Car and the Back Car, are moving in sequence and both are fit with CAS devices. Typically, the Back Car will be tracking the speed of the Front Car, the distance between the two cars, and the speed of the Back Car. If the separation between the two cars is expected to drop within a certain value in a stipulated time frame, the CAS may be empowered to deploy an automatic emergency brake – as required of cars in the European Union, for example – without the driver's intervention.

In order to achieve this, the CAS will have to be connected to the Back Car's braking system and be able to override the driver's instructions. It will also be connected to the Back Car's speed metre as well as equipped with a sensing technology to track the Front Car, like radar, lidar, and/or cameras with object recognition.

What is 'Kavach'?
Another important land-based mode of transport is the railway.

A spate of train accidents in India recently put the spotlight on the sluggish implementation of 'Kavach', the homegrown CAS for the Indian Railways. In their fundamentals, Kavach's components perform the same functions that CAS does in cars, but the railway system is more complicated.

Kavach has three main components: onboard, trackside, and communications. For the purpose of explanation, let's regroup them as computers, communications, and control.

Computers – there is a computer onboard the train plus two other computers for station masters. Of the latter, one is the master computer: it collates and processes information from signals and interlocking points and sends its output to the locomotive computer. The other is the remote interface unit, which also collates and processes information from various points on the railway network, and eventually transmits its data to the master computer; it doesn't communicate directly with the locomotive computer.

NAGARA GOPAL

The locomotive computer receives information from two other sources – (i) from the two Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) readers mounted on its underside. The tracks will be fit with RFID cards at fixed intervals. When the locomotive passes over the cards, the readers will scan the cards and retrieve the train's location and a track ID number, and send them to the onboard computer; (ii) additionally, onboard computers can communicate with each other if their respective locomotives are nearby.

Taken together, the system facilitates communications between stations and locomotive pilots, facilitates pilots' decision-making (with or without having to visually spot another train), maintains speed, issues sounds and alarms when passing through areas with low visibility, and applies emergency brakes when a collision is expected.

Communication – the remote interface unit transmits data to the master computer via fibre-optic cables. The master computer communicates with the locomotive computer via ultra-high frequency radio. The onboard computer uses GSM-Railway to communicate with the overall network management system (the software system that animates the Kavach CAS), including to authenticate its communications with nearby master computers and locomotive computers.

Control – as with cars, the onboard computer is connected to various other parts of the locomotive, including its braking system and an alarm to alert pilots. While operating the locomotive, pilots will use a bespoke interface – like a digital screen – that relays information from the computer and receives inputs from the pilots. The station master will have a similar interface, with the ability to send SOS messages as well.

How does CAS work in ships and aircraft?
The Traffic Collision Avoidance System for aircraft also has a computer-communication-control setup as for trains. An important component is the transponder – a device that, when it receives a radio-frequency ping, produces a response. Using the transponders of various other aircraft, the host aircraft can build up a 3D view of the air traffic around itself.

Another salient component of aircraft CAS is the alerts. If another aircraft is within 48 seconds away on a potential collision course, the computer sounds a traffic advisory that requires the pilots to visually identify the other aircraft. If the aircraft is less than 30 seconds away, the computer requires the pilots to make a resolution: report the alert as soon as possible to air traffic control and manoeuvre the aircraft to a safer course, if required contrary to air traffic control's instructions; and revert to the original course once the resolution is complete.

Finally, aircraft may also have radar altimeters to sense the distance to the ground and another system to alert pilots to 'tall' features like towers and ground antennae.

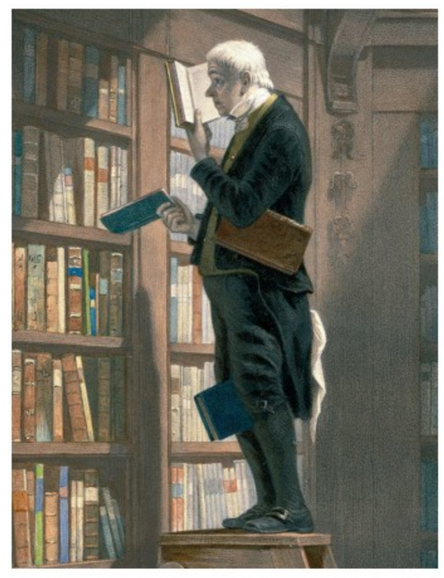
Ships – akin to cars and aircraft – use a combination of visual sighting and radar to steer clear of each other, while these operations are similarly assisted with the use of additional systems. Two important ones are AIS and LRIT. In the AIS, or Automatic Identification System, base stations on land track data received from transceivers onboard ships to infer their location, speed, and bearing, and transmit the details to each vessel.

LRIT is short for 'Long Range Identification and Tracking'. According to the International Maritime Organisation, a ship on an international voyage is required to report its location, local time, and onboard equipment once every six hours to the authorities in the country under whose flag the ship is sailing. This data is distributed to contracting governments and to operators of search-and-rescue missions via the International LRIT Data Exchange.

How have satellites changed CAS?
An important alternative to the transponder-based system for aircraft is the Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) system, which collects and processes information shared actively by each aircraft via satellites to understand the relative location, bearing, and speed of a group of aircraft. Similarly, the AIS for ships can be facilitated by satellites as well: such S-AIS systems are useful to track ships that are too far from AIS stations on land.

The advent of the U.S. Global Positioning System (GPS) had a transformative effect on navigation and collision avoidance worldwide, and which some countries have augmented with systems of their own to cater to specific national needs. For example, India already envisages the use of its NavIC constellation of navigational satellites to assist road and railway traffic.

Recall also the Front Car + Back Car scenario: if the country these cars are moving through also has a GPS-tagged database of its various traffic elements (stop signs, turns, signals, intersections, etc.), the CAS onboard the cars can also be assisted by GPS data. The spatial frequency of GPS for civilian applications is restricted to 10 metres, which is not good enough for CAS. But systems can overcome this limitation using differential GPS capabilities, which can improve the resolution to less than a metre.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Are we going to talk about spelling again?"

"Yes."

"Good."

"Why?"

"I know the spelling of a word but don't know its pronunciation. Maybe you could tell me."

"Let me see."

"How do you pronounce p..u..s..i..l..l..a..n..i..m..o..u..s?"

"Where did you come across that word?"

"Our newspapers used that word very often last week. They called some of our politicians.."

"Pusillanimous."

"Pusillanimous?"

"Yes. that's it. The first syllable 'pu' rhymes with 'few', 'due' and 'cue'; the 'si' is pronounced like the 'si' in 'sip' and 'sit'; the third syllable 'ila' is pronounced like the 'la' in words like 'ladder', 'lamb' and 'land'. The 'ni' is pronounced like the 'ni' in 'nib' and the final syllable 'ous' rhymes with the final syllable in Christmas."

'So, it is pusillanimous. And the stress is on the third syllable?"

"Yes, the stress is on the third syllable 'ila'."

"Pusillanimous. Pusillanimous politicians. That's a mouthful, isn't ft?"

"Yes, it certainly is. I suppose you know what it means."

"Well, er..."

"It means 'cowardly and weak'.'

"You mean somebody like our former Principal."

"Yes. Very much so. The pusillanimous principal gave in to the demands of the students. Many of us are too pusillanimous to fight for our rights."

"It is not good to be pusillanimous, but it's certainly a good word to have in one's vocabulary. Now I can use it to impress my friends."

"But 'pusillanimous' is a formal word."

"So?"

"You can use it in writing, not in conversation. Otherwise, people would think you're trying to show off. Well, let us discuss a spelling rule. Sometimes you wonder whether 'believe' + 'able' is 'believeable' or 'believable'. The general rule is that when a world ending in silent 'e' is followed by a suffix beginning with a vowel, the silent 'e' in the word is dropped.'

So we have 'believable', famous, losing, arranging. However, some words like 'movable', 'livable', 'lovable', 'likable' are also spelt 'move able', 'live able', 'love able', 'like able'. But when the suffix begins with a consonant the final 'e' in the word is retained: loveless, movement, arrangement, sincerely, hopeful, careful, lively. This is enough for this week. More about this rule next week."

"For this relief, much thanks."

Published in The Hindu on December 29, 1992.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz based on the facts and figures from the Olympic Games, Paris 2024

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Though the U.S. and China ended up with 40 Gold medals each, the former took the top spot in the medals table for the fourth straight time by winning the final gold on offer in which event?

QUESTION 2
Name the countries for whom these athletes won its first-ever Gold medals: Letsile Tebogo (Men's 200m), Thea LaFond (Women's triple jump), and Adriana Ruano Oliva (Women's trap shooting).

QUESTION 3
Across 19 days of competition, apart from the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, how many National Olympic Committees were represented?

QUESTION 4
Paris 2024 was the first Olympic Games with full gender parity. Of the 329 medal events, how many women events and mixed-gender events were held?

QUESTION 5
In which specific event did Swapnil Kusale and Aman Sehrawat win Bronze medals?

QUESTION 6
What connects Leon Marchand (France), Mollie O'Callaghan (Australia), and Torri Huske (U.S.)?

QUESTION 7
In which event did China sweep all the eight gold medals on offer?

Visual question:
Name this Cuban grappler who became the first Summer Olympian in an individual sport to win five consecutive gold medals in the same event.
REUTERS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name the national research institute Sarabhai founded in November 1947. **Ans: The Physical Research Laboratory**
2. The body which oversaw space-related activities in India before INCOSPAR. **Ans: Department of Atomic Energy**
3. This man was Sarabhai's doctoral adviser in Cambridge. Sarabai was this ISRO chairman's doctoral adviser. **Ans: C.V. Raman; U.R. Rao**
4. In the mid-1970s, a French aerospace company transferred its Viking engine technology to India, where the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre used it to build the famous _____ engine. **Ans: Vikas**
5. These individuals were instrumental in establishing the National Institute of Design in Ahmedabad. **Ans: Gautam and Gira, Sarabai's siblings**
Visual: The original name of this building and its connection to Sarabhai. **Ans: Halcyon Castle, place where Sarabhai died**
Early Birds: Joseph Nelson| Rahul Singh| K.N.Viswanathan| Aditi Rewri| Jyot Prakash

Word of the day

Fusty:
stale and unclean smelling; old-fashioned and out of date

Synonyms: musty, standpat, non-progressive

Usage: *This room smells slightly fusty. You should open a window.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/fustypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fʌsti/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Bengaluru Charter to mitigate human-wildlife conflict adopted

It calls for formulating an SOP regarding what must not be done by people to minimise conflict

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Bengaluru Charter to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and formulate a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to minimise the conflict was adopted on Monday at the International Conference on Human-Elephant Conflict Management-2024 (ICHECM- 2024).

At a Minister Engagement Programme which was held on the sidelines of the ICHECM- 2024 and attended by the Environment Ministers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, and Jharkhand, the 13-point Bengaluru Charter was adopted.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister of Forest Eshwar Khandre at the inaugural ceremony of International Conference on Human Elephant Conflict in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The charter said that humans and elephants can co-exist and that conflict happens only when they suddenly come very close to each other.

It also called for formulating an SOP regarding what must not to be done by humans to minimise conflict. "There should be an SOP regarding what the dos and don'ts are when an elephant ventures outside the forest and a conflict-like situation is forthcoming. This should involve the affected population and all the departments of the State administration who are likely to be of assistance in the situation," states one of the points of the charter. Besides, it also called for the need for an SOP for elephant capture so that there are no accidents involving humans and elephants.

It stressed the need for all big elephant herds to be tracked by radio-collaring the matriarch and said that information and location must be shared with neighbouring States as well as the villages that are near the location of the herd. The charter also said that to ensure that compensation at par with Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana is available for crop losses caused by elephants and other wild animals, the government of India may be requested to contribute the central share in premium of the portion of crop insurance covering damage by wild animals.

To ensure better coordination between the States, it called for all the elephant-bearing States sharing a common boundary should meet at least once in three months at the district level and once in six months at the State level to disseminate all information, and join hands in combinedly dealing with the conflict.

Pose a question to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy

#THTALKSBENGALURU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Have a question about HSRP number plates, the Shakti scheme, KSRTC, BMTC buses, or the Muzrai Department? Get answers from Ramalinga Reddy, Karnataka's Transport and Muzrai Minister, as *The Hindu* will pose your questions to him on #THTalksBengaluru.

Mr. Reddy, an eight-time Congress MLA from Bengaluru, represents the BTM Layout constituency in Bengaluru. He has previously held various portfolios, including Finance, Industry, Agricultural Marketing, Food and Civil Supplies, Bengaluru Development, and Primary and Secondary Education.

The interaction with the Minister will be published on Wednesday

A seasoned politician with a strong grasp of Bengaluru's civic affairs, Mr. Reddy began his political career with the Bengaluru City Corporation Council from 1983 to 1988.

Readers can submit their questions about the Transport Department, State-run road transport corporations (RTCs) – KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC, and KKRTC or the Muzrai Department via email to thtalksbengaluru@thehindu.co.in before 12 p.m. on Tuesday. The interaction will be published on Wednesday.

Environment Ministers of several States to meet Union Minister to seek timely release of CAMPA funds

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation comprising the Environment Ministers of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, and Jharkhand will meet Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, and demand the timely release of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds.

The decision to meet the Union Minister was taken at the Minister Engagement Programme which was held on the sidelines of the International Conference on Human-Elephant Conflict Management-2024 (ICHECM- 2024).

Presiding over a Ministerial-level meeting, Karnataka Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre suggested that all participating ministers submit a petition to the Union Minister regarding the release of CAMPA funds for railway barricades.

Kerala to lead

Kerala Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran said that he would lead this initiative.

During the discussion on measures taken in other States to address the issues of the invasive Lantana and Senna spectabilis trees, the Ministers agreed that continuous eradication of Lantana was the solution.

It was also discussed that opportunities should be provided for certain tribal communities, who create decorative items and wildlife replicas from Lantana, to come forward and remove Lantana.

Mr. Khandre while presiding over a meeting with farmers during the conference said that the government will review the suggestion to provide insurance to people living near forest areas. He said it would be discussed and decided upon in a high-level meeting.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar participating in the inaugural ceremony of the conference said that the Forest Department should have to re-look at starting khedda operations.

Highest number

"Karnataka has the highest number of elephants in the country. The Forest Departments used to use *khedda* to capture elephants. Officials need to look into this age-old practice. We need to ensure that animals and farmers co-exist," he said.

He added that there are frequent man-elephant conflicts in his Assembly constituency Kanakapura and that he is very well aware of these issues. "This is a big issue in Karnataka. The experts need to deliberate on ways to reduce loss of lives in human-elephant conflicts," he added.

Broken crest gate of Tungabhadra dam washes away hopes of farmers

After being hit by drought last year, farmers were happy the dam was full and had prepared fields for transplantation

Kumar Buradikatti
KALABURAGI

Farmers transplanting paddy saplings at Bennur village in Karatagi taluk of Koppal district. FILE PHOTO

Farmers in the Tungabhadra command area in Koppal, Raichur, Ballari, and Vijayanagara districts were a delighted lot till the weekend, as the Tungabhadra reservoir was full, thanks to the good monsoon in the catchment area, especially in the Sahyadri range. They grew paddy saplings in the nursery beds and prepared their fields for transplantation. However, the snapping of crest gate No. 19 in Tungabhadra reservoir late on Saturday has shattered their hopes overnight.

The reservoir was full to the brim holding 105.788 tmcft water at the full reservoir level of 1,633 feet when the tragedy struck. As much as 35,000 cusecs of water began gushing through the broken gate. The authorities raised the remaining 32 gates to discharge water from the reservoir to reduce the pressure on the broken gate. As per experts' opinion, the repair work can be taken up only after half of the water is drained from the reservoir. Spillway discharge at the rate of 2 lakh cusecs for the next 3-4 days could make the reservoir half-empty and facilitate the repair work.

'No sufficient water'

"If 50 tmcft water is released, there will be only another 55 tmcft in the reservoir. 10 tmcft of water will have to be kept for drinking and other emergency purposes. The remaining 45 tmcft will have to be shared by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. I don't think farmers will get sufficient water for even one crop this year," Shashidhar Gouda, farmer from Haravi village in Manvi taluk of Raichur district told *The Hindu*.

Chamarasa Malipatil, farmer from Bettadur village in Raichur district and honorary president of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, blamed it on improper maintenance. "We had written to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who held the Water Resources portfolio as well, requesting him to convene a meeting of officers and farmers' leaders to discuss various issues about the Tungabhadra and Basavasagar reservoirs," he said.

He said the incident has created anxiety among farmers. "They were hit hard by drought last year. They were happy that the dam was full and were preparing land for transplantation. Farmers in the upper reaches, especially in Gangavati and Karatagi taluks of Koppal districts, have already completed the transplantation. They were hopeful of getting sufficient water to cultivate two crops this year. That dream has washed away now," Mr. Malipatil said.

If the catchment area continues to receive rainfall even after the repair of the damaged crest gate is completed, he added, the reservoir can see inflow and farmers can still be hopeful. "That is, however, unlikely. The monsoon is already weakening," Mr. Malipatil said.

The canals

The Tungabhadra reservoir, the construction of which began in 1947 and was completed in 1958, is an inter-State project involving Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

It irrigates 12.1 lakh acres of land in the three States.

Farmers in Karnataka, especially in Gangavati and Karatagi in Koppal district and Sindhanur, Manvi, Sirwara and Raichur in Raichur district cultivate superior quality Sona Masoori variety of paddy.

The rice is not only supplied to different parts of the state but also exported to the U.S., UAE, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Germany, Japan, and other rice-consuming countries.

State to form panel to study safety of its dams

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the snapping of the chain link of a crest gate on Tungabhadra dam, the Karnataka government has decided to constitute a Dam Safety Committee to study the safety aspects of all the reservoirs in the State and submit a report.

Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, who also holds Major Irrigation portfolio, said the proposed committee would submit its report within a month.

Repair work begins

Mr. Shivakumar, who inspected the Tungabhadra dam site, said the repair work started in the early hours of Monday. Explaining the processes involved, he said the Tungabhadra Irrigation Board comprises members from the Centre as well as the three riparian states. Information related to snapping of chain link had been passed on to all the members soon after the incident came to light besides discussing the issue with experts who had worked on dam safety issues.

As per their suggestion, the relevant map of the dam had been obtained to help the crest gate makers to understand the requirements. "I have spoken to the Jindal factory that makes the gates and they have commenced repair work on Monday," he said.

Though it was necessary to reduce the storage to complete the repair works, the authorities were striving to save 50 to 60 tmcft of water so that farmers could get water to support at least one crop in the year, he noted.

Trying to allay the fears of farmers, he said instead of releasing all the water to the river, measures were being taken to divert it to canals and to tanks. He said information had been provided to Union Minister of State for Water Resources V. Somanna.

He refused to blame the officials for the snapping of chain link on the crest gate of Tungabhadra dam by pointing out that the facility was nearly 70-year-old and hence it could not withstand the pressure of water. He also denied reports that the dam safety committee had already hinted at such a possibility and pointed out that the Tungabhadra dam had just a chain link unlike the new dams that have both chain link and rope system.

DKS to attend AICC meeting in Delhi today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar is leaving for Delhi on Tuesday to participate in a meeting of PCC presidents and in-charge AICC secretaries of States convened by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Confirming this to media persons in Bengaluru on Monday, Mr. Shivakumar said he would return to Bengaluru either on Tuesday evening or Wednesday.

Sources in the Congress said that various issues, including the forthcoming polls to State Assemblies and measures for strengthening the party in the wake of improved results in the Lok Sabha elections, were likely to be discussed.

On another query, Mr. Shivakumar expressed confidence that Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot would honour the resolution of the State Council of Ministers with respect to the show-cause notice served to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on alleged irregularities in MUDA. The Council has asked the Governor to withdraw the notice.

It will be a grand Mysuru Dasara this time: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during a meeting on Dasara festivities in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

'Good rains have brought smiles on the faces of farmers; also, there is a good coverage with respect to sowing and all the reservoirs are almost full'

The State government has decided to celebrate this year's Mysuru Dasara in a grand and meaningful manner from October 3 to 12 in the wake of good rains that have provided a boost to agricultural activities and resulted in a healthy storage in all the reservoirs.

A decision to this effect was taken at a high-level committee meeting which was held here on Monday under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Drought last year

"Last year, Dasara celebrations remained simple owing to drought. However, this year good rains have brought smiles on the faces of farmers; also, there is a good coverage with respect to sowing and all the reservoirs are almost full. Hence, we have decided to celebrate Mysuru Dasara in a grand and meaningful manner," the Chief Minister said.

The meeting, which was attended by Ministers and legislators of Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, and Kodagu districts, has authorised the Chief Minister to choose a suitable person to inaugurate the Dasara celebrations, he said.

The Chief Minister said he had strictly instructed authorities to ensure that various other Dasara-related shows, including exhibition, Yuva Dasara, and wrestling competitions start on the day of Dasara inauguration itself. He had also asked officials to use the exhibition to showcase the government's achievements in various sectors, he noted.

Dasara this year will have 21 days of illumination, which means that the illumination would continue for a week after the end of the celebrations.

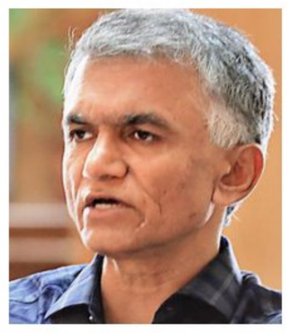
Jamboo Savari

The Dasara celebrations would begin atop Chamundi Hills at 9.15 a.m. on October 3 while the Jamboo Savari would commence on October 12 after puja which would be conducted between 1.41 p.m. and 2.10 p.m. on that day, he said. Abhimanyu would be the lead tusker in this year's Dasara festivities, which would carry the 750 kg golden howdah.

While more number of volunteers and Home Guards would be deputed to help tourists, the police had been told to ensure that there was adequate security and also parking space, he said. A tourist circuit around Mysuru city would also be evolved with the involvement of KSRTC, he said. Pointing out that a grant of ₹30 crore had been given for Dasara celebrations last year when it was a low-key affair, he said the government would ensure adequate grants for this year's Dasara.

State lost crops on 80,000 ha owing to heavy rains: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



Krishna Byre Gowda

Crops on nearly 80,000 hectares of land have been lost owing o heavy rains that lashed different areas of the State, according to Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

He told media persons after a review meeting of his department that compensation for crop loss would be provided to farmers within a week.

Giving the break-up of losses, he said agricultural crops on 78,679 hectares and horticultural crops on 2,294 hectares had been lost. However, the losses were likely to go up as the rains would continue for another 45 days. Hence, the State would wait till the completion of the south-west monsoon period to submit a memorandum to the Centre for compensation, he said.

Mr. Byre Gowda said the State had witnessed 26% excess rains than the average so far under the south-west monsoon. The rains were excess over the average by 24% in north interior region, 21% in Malnad region, and 28% in coastal region. None of the districts had reported below average rainfall, he said.

He said the forecast had indicated that the south-west monsoon would gain steam from August 16 and that the monsoon impact would continue for one-and-a-half months.

In the coming days, good rains were expected to in the central Karnataka region, including Bengaluru, the Cauvery and Krishna river basins, and the Karnataka-Maharashtra boundary region. Hence, the Deputy Commissioners concerned had been instructed to take precautionary measures to handle floods.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will hold an important meeting with officials concerned in the wake of indications of heavy rains after August 15, he said.

So far, 58 people had died in rain-related incidents this year as against 75 during the corresponding period in 2022 and 67 in 2019, he pointed out.

The Revenue Department is set to begin a Statewide drive to clear encroachments on government lands in September based on the data collated by Land Beat App, according to Mr. Byre Gowda.

The minister explained that all the village administrative officers had been asked to upload information related to the extent of government land in their jurisdiction on land beat app since the last eight months. Through the information provided by them, it has now turned out that there is an extent of 1.41 crore acres of government land belonging to the Departments of Revenue, Forest, Education and PWD in the state. The government now had information and location related to this with district, taluk and village-wise break-ups, he said.

While identification of government land was part of the first phase of such an initiative, the officials concerned had been told in the second phase to make physical visits to government lands and upload details on the app on whether those lands have been encroached. Details had been obtained with respect to 90% of government lands, he noted, while asserting that the encroachment clearance drive would begin from September.

From Page One

Efforts on to fix crest gate without colossal wastage of water

However on Monday, Koppal district In-charge Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi said that efforts were on to fix the problem without draining the reservoir.

"One team of technical experts thinks that the new gate could be installed only after emptying the reservoir by half. Considering farmers' concerns, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directed us to explore other possibilities to fix the issue without draining the reservoir. So we have engaged another team of experts from JSW in Toranagallu, Ballari district. The team has started work," Mr. Tangadagi said. He said dam authorities and experts were in touch with Kannaiah Naidu, an expert in crest gate works from Hyderabad, who had already submitted the design to the dam authorities.

Pointing to the complexities involved in plugging the damaged gate without draining the reservoir Mr. Tangadagi said that mounting heavy cranes on the dam wall to fix a temporary gate with iron plates was also a challenging task.

Work on manufacturing the permanent gate has already begun. As per sources in the Irrigation Central Zone (Munirabad) of Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Ltd., two firms - Hindustan Engineering Works and Narayana Engineering Co from Hosapete - are working on it. The latter is assigned the task to make a new gate, which will be 60 ft high and 20 ft wide, based on the design given by Mr. Naidu. The gate will be prepared by attaching 5 huge iron planks of 12 ft width each.

The permanent gate will be ready by the time the reservoir level comes down to around 1,618 ft with storage of around 55 tmcft, as against the full reservoir level of 1,633 ft with a total storage capacity of 105.788 tmcft.

'Japan will tap India's tech power to grow strong in software'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Japan will encounter a shortage of 180,000 software engineers by 2030, and to bridge this gap, the country might look at India's software power and tech talent pool, said Toshihiro Mizutani, Director General, Jetro (Japan External Trade Organisation) in Bengaluru.

"Japan is hardware heavy while our software capabilities are slightly slow and behind compared to, say, that of the U.S and European geographies," he said on the sidelines of Japan-India Innovation Pitch, an event organised by Jetro Bengaluru with the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) to foster open collaboration between Indian and Japanese start-ups and corporates here recently.

Under this pitch initiative, the challenge owners of large Japanese and Indian corporates looked for solutions to solve various issues. The response was overwhelming, and received 135 applications from start-ups, of which 15 were shortlisted.

Maruti Suzuki, Omron Healthcare, Toyota Tsusho, GMR Group and Infosys were some of the corporates that are seeking innovative tech solutions and tools from start-ups for diverse industry applications.

Addressing the gathering, Geetanjali Vikram Kirloskar said it was heartening to see India's youth teaming up with Japan to promote innovation for the world. "Four guiding principles are critical if you want to accelerate economic ties with Japan, and these are respect, building trust, humility and patience," she said.

Mr. Mizutani further said the Japan-India Innovation Pitch was a new initiative for India. However, the programme has already been a success in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam in terms of involving social entrepreneurs in economic growth.

Minimum wage for library staff

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Library supervisors across the State will be eligible for minimum wages, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, at the Librarians' Day event held on Monday.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ-21
ಸಂ:ಕಿಮ್ಸ್/ಪೂವಿ(2):19/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12-08-2024

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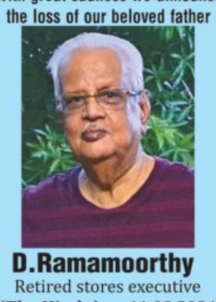
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

D RAMAMOORTHY (86), Retired Stores Executive, The Hindu , Chennai passed away on 11-August-2024.Addr: Old No:4, New No:7, Shanmuga Vilas, Muthiappa Street, Shenoy Nagar Post, Chennai-600030. Ct: 98407 03543

With great sadness we announce the loss of our beloved father



D.Ramamoorthy
Retired stores executive
(**The Hindu**) on 11.08.2024 at 9.15 pm at his residence.
His sons
R.Balajee 9840703543
R.Ramkumar 9840711133

HOMAGE

RESPECTFUL HOMAGE AND FOUNDERS

Smt. H.Saraswathamma & Sri M.Aryamurthy

FOUNDERS DAY on Saturday 24.08 2024
Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day.
Unseem, unheard, but always near;
Still loved, still missed and very dear
Trustees ,Inmates & old students of
Arya Sevashrama Trust. Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore-10

Mapping danger: Experts build a free open-source model to assess landslide risks

Climate Software Lab has come up with a Landslide Risk Assessment model that maps landslide risks in some of the most eco-sensitive and fragile regions of the Indian subcontinent

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Houses got partially submerged in mud and sludge following the landslide in Wayanad. ANI

Landslide on National Highway 66 near Shirur of Ankola taluk in Uttara Kannada district on July 16.

Search operations after landslides hit Mundakkai village in Wayanad on August 1. THULASI KAKKAT

The wounds of the tragic landslides that struck Kerala and Karnataka in July have not healed yet.

In Kerala disaster struck in the early morning of July 30 in the Mundakai-Chooralmala region near Meppadi in Wayanad, resulting in the death of more than 200 people as per government estimates. Exactly two weeks before the incident, on July 16, similar landslides struck Shirur Village in Uttara Kannada washing away 13 people. All the locations were situated along the Western Ghats.

India is among the top four countries with landslide risk according to the Landslide Atlas of India published by the Indian Space Research Organisation and National Remote Sensing Centre. Between 1998 and 2022 around 80,000 incidents occurred in the country causing severe casualties to lives and livelihoods.

This also underscores the importance of publicly available data on landslide risks and cumulative rainfall to form effective mitigation strategies.

Climate Software Lab (CSL), the climate technology arm of Bengaluru-based clean fuels company GPS Renewables, has come up with a Landslide Risk Assessment model that maps landslide risks in some of the most eco-sensitive and fragile regions of the Indian subcontinent.

A free open-source software available for the public and policymakers, the tool was developed by a team of AI experts and scientists.

Granular estimates

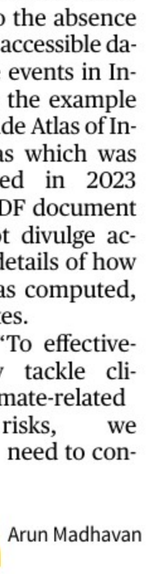
The model can map landslide risks in regions including the Western Ghats, Himalayas, and Northeast India covering around 40 lakh people. It grades places from 'low susceptibility' to 'very high susceptibility' and has a web interface which helps to visualise the same.

It all started off as a hobby project, remembers Nipun O.S., Chief Sustainability Officer, Climate Software Lab.

"Climate risks can affect our projects at GPS Renewables. While we set up biogas plants it is important for us to be able to locate the plants in places with less exposure to risks," he says.

CSL, whose core philosophy has been to build systems on top of open-source software, started working on solving this problem and developed the landslide risk assessment model based on the global Landslide Hazard Assessment model for Situational Awareness (LHASA) model by NASA.

Nipun O.S.


Arun Madhavan

"In the NASA model, the issue was that it was very coarse in resolution. It will paint high risk for large areas. Therefore, it wasn't very useful for us in any real context as landslides are a very local phenomenon in most cases.

The team used parameters such as forest loss, distance from structural lineaments and road, slope of the terrain, tree canopy height, clay content and human modification of the region, all conditions pertinent to local areas. This helped to get a more granular estimate of landslide susceptibility of the regions it covered.

Importance of data

Most of the datasets that have been used in the making of the model are publicly available remote sensing data by agencies like NASA.

"One of the objectives behind the project was also to highlight the need for openly accessible datasets on climate and the potential uses of it," says Arun Madhavan, Head, Technology, Climate Software Lab.

Pointing to the absence of timely and accessible data on climate events in India, he takes the example of the Landslide Atlas of India. The Atlas which was last published in 2023 comes as a PDF document and does not divulge actual data or details of how the data was computed, he notes.

"To effectively tackle climate-related risks, we need to continuously improve models based on experiences and new data sets available. In this regard it is quite important that these datasets are publicly accessible."

"GSI data is absolutely crucial in this. Unfortunately, it is not made available to the public at regular intervals. People can come up with innovative solutions only if data is available. Generating this kind of data is impossible for private industry. Only governments can do that. Once the data is generated and made available, even an individual can analyse it given the computing powers today," he notes.

Interestingly India is a signatory to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development which urges States to 'facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available.'

Not a predictive tool

While CSL's model provides an effective tool to estimate the landslide susceptibility of a region, the developers stress that it is not a prediction tool, not at least for now.

"It will help understand the general susceptibility of a region. But it will not tell you that a landslide is going to happen tomorrow," says Nipun.

However, the team believes that the current model, which is static in nature, could serve as a foundation to build a more dynamic model in the coming days.

"The event of a landslide is typically triggered by rain. So, we are also considering integrating rainfall information into the model to get some sense of the cumulative rainfall over a particular area in the last few days. If it is substantially different from the historical data, then that area has a higher possibility of landslide."

Madhavan adds to this. "If you look at landslides and related damages, there are instances where impact of human modifications of a region triggered incidents. However, in the last two major landslides in Kerala, you cannot say human intervention was the key directing force. In both cases landslides started in forest or near-forest kind of condition. The locations were considered relatively stable and not modified for the last 100 years. Whereas if you look at the landslides in the Himalayan region human intervention has become a big factor,"

Army and rescue personnel during a rescue operation at Chooralmala area after a landslide triggered by heavy rainfall in Wayanad district. PTI

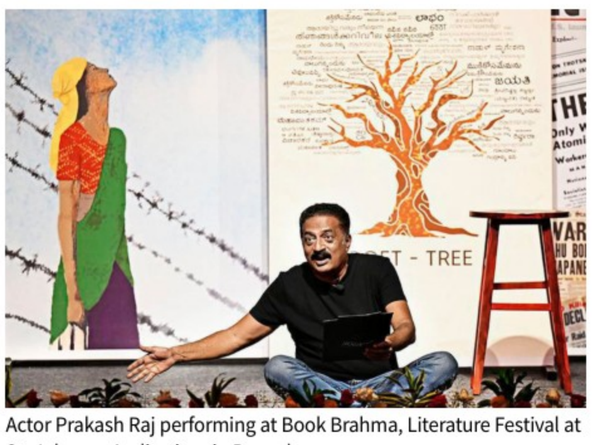
"This points to the importance of monitoring the rainfall and data on rainfall would help with the prediction part. As the cumulative rainfall crosses a certain threshold the existing landslide risk in a certain area will go up. That is the second part which we want to develop. With that, we can have a predictive model."

The Landslide Risk Assessment model can be accessed at https://terrainin-sight.gpsrenewables.com/

Soul of South festival by Book Brahma highlights the multilingual nature of Bengaluru

The festival offered a distinctive mix of panel discussions, performances, book launches, and interactive sessions, attracting a diverse set of audience

Yemen S.
BENGALURU


Actor Prakash Raj performing at Book Brahma, Literature Festival at St. Johnson Auditorium in Bengaluru.

With people from across all South Indian states living in Bengaluru, giving it a rich and diverse linguistic heritage, it would not be wrong to call the city the cultural capital of South India. However, a closer look at the city's flourishing literature festivals reveals a predominant focus on English and Kannada languages, with little room for other languages. Breaking this linguistic barrier is Book Brahma's inaugural festival *Soul of South: Book Brahma Festival*, a vibrant event that celebrates literary voices from across all South Indian languages, concluded last week at the St. John's Auditorium, Koramangala.

The three-day festival, called 'Soul of South', was structured around six venues on one campus. Each section offered a distinctive mix of panel discussions, performances, book launches, and interactive sessions, attracting a diverse audience of literature enthusiasts across the three days.

Musical beginning

The last day's events commenced with a soulful Hindustani classical vocal performance by Pandit M. Venkatesh Kumar, accompanied by Satish Kolli on harmonium and Keshav Joshi on tabla.

Following this was a performance by actor Prakash Raj titled *Diverse Languages, Same Feeling*, which highlighted the common threads that unite India's diverse linguistic landscape through poems in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam. Key sessions included a discussion on the latest trends in Malayalam poetry, as well as a panel on the intersection of literature and cinema in Kannada, with renowned filmmakers Girish Kasaravalli and Sumana Kittur. The festival featured discussions on Telugu short stories and emerging trends in Tamil novels, placing regional literature in the spotlight.

Key discussions

Among other key sessions spread across the three days delved into contemporary Kannada novels, subaltern voices in Telugu literature, and the pluralistic dimensions of Karnataka's languages. A particularly engaging panel examined the impact of generative AI on Indian writing, exploring how technology is shaping the future of literature.

There was a thought-provoking discussions on contemporary theatre, the art of storytelling, poetry in cinema songs, the beauty of languages within Karnataka, and the evolving vision for literature. There was an interesting session focused on the global prospects for South Indian literature, with discussions on the role of literary agents and editors in Indian language publishing. A roundtable with South Indian publishers and international experts highlighted the challenges and opportunities of taking regional literature to a global audience. There was a dedicated venue on the campus focused on storytelling, art master classes, traditional board games, and art competitions for children.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Devu Pattar, editor-in-chief, Book Brahma, said the organisers have had an overwhelming experience through the three days. "This is probably the first literature festival that has included all the major South Indian languages. I have attended many literature festivals across the country, but these festivals are predominantly focused on English literature, and literature in the regional language. We have managed to bring authors and poets who write in Kannada, Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam all under one roof."

Another important aspect of the festival is the inclusion of diverse backgrounds, he said. "We had authors and poets who write in languages such as Tulu, Kodava, Byari and Konkani under one roof, sharing the beauty of their language, its origin and also the challenges they face. We also had a discussion by activists of the LGBTQIA+ community like Akkai Padmashali, Manjamma Jogathi, Malavika, and Rumi Harish," he adds.

Beyond Kannada

Pattar says Book Brahma plans to continue to host the annual festival every year, and the next festival is proposed in August, 2025. "We also plan to expand our work across all South Indian states in the coming days. We have been a platform for authors, poets and publishers who write in Kannada. We have promoted, interviewed and established a community for Kannada writers over the last five years. We now want to work with other South Indian states and help promote and exchange literature in other languages," he says.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 13, 1974

LIC Loan for Flood Relief in S. Kanara

Bangalore, Aug. 12. Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, Karnataka CM, announced in the State Assembly today that the Life Insurance Corporation of India had sanctioned a loan of Rs. 1.5 crores for flood relief in South Kanara district. The announcement was made as the House was due to debate the flood havoc in the district on a motion by the opposition leader. The LIC assistance would be utilised for providing housing and drinking water facilities to the flood victims. Mr. Urs thanked the LIC for the assistance and the Union Minister, Mr. T.A. Pai, for using his good offices in securing the loan after a tour of the flood hit areas.

Subsidised Food Grain Supply Ruled Out

Bangalore, August. 12. The Food and Forest Minister, Mr. K.H. Patil ruled out in the Assembly today the possibility of distributing food grains at a subsidised rate to the vulnerable sections of the people.The Minister, however, gave an assurance that steps would be taken to ensure proper grain distribution from the stocks procured by the Government. Replying to a barrage of questions on the procurement prices of paddy, ragi and jowar, and the rise in grain prices, Mr. Patil said one of the reasons for the price rise was the general inflation in the country. The high cost of transport, rise in procurement price, the consequent increase in the issue of price of foodgrains supplied through fair price shops and shortfall in production had contributed to the inflationary trend.

Mind's eye (Clockwise from left) Fazal Sheikh and his photos of war widows, Vermeer's *Milkmaid*, Amy Herman and *NYT* cover on daily life during the bombing in Ukraine. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Did you know art can hone your perception? While in the city, art historian Amy Herman discussed this idea and her book *Visual Intelligence*

From canvas to clarity

Smruti S

Amy Herman is a lawyer and art historian who has designed a programme which uses works of art to sharpen observation, analysis, and communication skills. Her book *Visual Intelligence: Sharpen Your Perception, Change Your Life* was on both the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* bestsellers' lists. She had recently visited the city's Museum of Art and Photography where she is an international board member.

While in Bengaluru, Amy held sessions on a programme she developed called the Art of Perception based on 'visual intelligence'. According to her, visual intelligence is the ability to see what other people do not by gaining clarity from multiple perspectives.

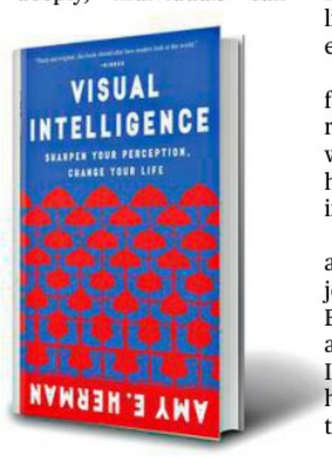
"I teach people to look at works of art to help sharpen their visual intelligence, to see what should be there and isn't, and to understand the value of multiple perspectives. Art is the vehicle that we use to do that."

Initially a law practitioner, Amy saw immense value in legal education and training, even though she found it uninspiring. She forged a new path which creatively fused legal and visual analysis. This resulted in developing the program, which was first designed in 2000.

Amy's training adapts art-based observation techniques to suit different professional groups – nurses, intelligence officers, military personnel and others. She tailors the selection of artworks to address the specific challenges faced by each group. Although the specific artworks vary, the core methodology focuses on enhancing communication skills.

While most participants are already skilled leaders, Amy uses art to offer fresh perspectives, guided by her principle of teaching people to "look differently to see better." This approach helps people view situations from new angles and improve their communication. Amy's expertise has seen her provide training to leaders at the White House, NATO Defence College, Scotland Yard, New York City Police Department, the FBI, Interpol, the French National Police and members of many Fortune 500 companies

In the early days, Amy encountered skepticism from police officers and other professionals who questioned how studying art could be beneficial to their work. By observing and understanding more deeply, individuals can gain fresh perspectives on their partners, children, and family. Eventually, many found this enhanced perception notably strengthened their relationships and gave them a new depth.



Amy sees art as "a potent reminder of human creativity and the potential we all have to solve problems and excel in our work."

Talking about her foray into writing, Amy says, "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would ever write a book." She remembers how on a flight in February 2012, she got talking with a co-passenger who was a literary agent. On learning about Amy's work, she said, "I'm going to be your agent. You'll write a book for me, and I'll get it on the bestseller list."

At the time, Amy thought it was a tall claim, but she has written three books since which have not only been on bestseller lists but also been translated into 14 languages.

Abhishek Poddar, the founder of MAP, having read her books, met up with Amy for coffee when he was in New York, and invited her to MAP.

"I didn't know much about Indian art before I joined the International Board at MAP, but looking at art that was created in India and by Indian artists, helped me see the world through their eyes," she confesses.

Out of all the artwork presented at MAP, two photographs struck her the most, "One was by Fazal Sheikh. He took pictures of widows that I found simply incredible. The other one was from a project by Anoli Perera who took pictures of women with wigs over their faces; they were stunning."

According to Amy, people should visit museums and art exhibitions for two reasons. "Art highlights human creativity and reminds us of our potential. Museums also offer a change of environment, which can shift your perspective and thinking."

Though Amy is sceptical of AI-created art, she has a deep appreciation for photography.

"A photographer's perspective shapes the images we see and photography can help us reframe our view of the world. We all have a camera lens in our eyes – when we see that photography can capture so many different things, it reminds us to think about what we are capturing and what we are seeing."

Amy recollects how a 2021 image in the *New York Times* of an elderly woman in eastern Ukraine cooking in her kitchen even as bombs went off around her, reminded her of Johannes Vermeer's *Milkmaid* (1655). "Over 350 years between that painting and photograph, and it seemed there wasn't a minute between them."

"I believe art is the greatest chronicler of our world – war, economy, sickness, celebration, mankind. All this has been around since the beginning of time. Art is a window to the world and helps us explain things we can't otherwise."

Tis the season Floral tree saplings abound in government nurseries. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Add sheen to your green

Marianne De Nazareth

If you are a tree lover looking to add more foliage to your home, drive to any of the government nurseries across the city and take your pick of tree saplings bagged and ready to be planted. These nurseries are full of wonderful native tree saplings, which are prime to take root, especially during the rains.

The saplings of differing species are priced according to their size and sold at subsidised rates since they are affiliated to the Forest Department.

The Hebbal Nursery has a huge range of saplings. Balakrishna BV, the official in-charge of the nursery says, "People come from surrounding areas to pick up these young trees. Sales have picked up after we have been mentioned in the media."

Chitra and her husband Varun who live on Bellary Road frequent the Hennur nursery. "We wanted to purchase six Indian almond saplings in 6x12 inch bags for the garden around our apartment block. They are easy to grow and maintain and this size has a better survival rate," says Chitra.

Varun, who was keen on Indian cork trees, said, "Indian Cork trees grow to maturity and start flowering in a few years. I am in favour of planting our native, scented flowering-trees which make a floral carpet on the ground below when blooms fall."

According to Balakrishna BV, "Many people are not only interested in exotic flowering trees, but also native fruit trees such as the *nellikai* (gooseberry). They come in 6x9 inch bags and cost less than the bigger 6x12 saplings. There is also a demand for the medicinal *honge marra* (Millettia pinnata), mango, Bangalore cherry, and the all-time favourite tabebuia."

The tabebuia rosea, tabibuea argentea and tabebuia avellanedae are three exotic flowering trees which are native to large parts of South and Central America. They have brightened Bengaluru's roads in the last decade as they were planted in the newer layouts that sprung up in the city. The Hebbal Nursery has all three varieties and their golden yellow, rose pink or magenta trumpet-shaped blooms can enhance any locality.

However, Yellappa Reddy, former secretary, Department of Ecology and Environment, Government of Karnataka says, "While it is commendable that private citizens want to plant trees, they also need to look beyond beautiful flowers and oxygen, and be mindful of their ecological services as well."

Rows and rows of young healthy saplings stand in all the nurseries run by the Forest department, waiting to be bought and adopted. Sampige (magnolia champaca), nagalinga (cannonball tree), Indian mahogany, silver oak and teak, are among the many species available in the nursery.

"All government nurseries are open from 9am to 6pm every day, except for Sundays and on festivals," explains Balakrishna, as his helpers load our car with a few tabebuia rosea. "Our prices are far cheaper than any regular nursery in the city, which will make any gardener happy."

For nursery details call 9480797297 (Hebbal), 9481990566 (Hennur), 9481990530 (KR Puram)

Thrum of a new sound

Ananya Mehta and Carol Worth

The parai is the only instrument that has been burnt by its own players. Reclaiming it as a symbol of resistance, Bengaluru-based Adavi Arts Collective recently celebrated a year of workshops, shows and jam sessions.

Adavi recently performed at the Shoonya Centre for Art and Somatic Practices as part of a fundraiser organised by the Hank Nunn Institute.

The founder of Adavi and a parai artiste by profession, Keela Naren explains that the parai is traditionally played at funerals to establish the death of a person because no living body can resist moving to its rhythmic beats.

Sure enough, the infectious beats roused the crowd to their feet, with most of the audience dancing by the end of the event.

Adavu, in Tamil, literally translates to rhythm, and *adavi* to forest, but the meaning that the collective attributes to it involves a deeper morphological dive. *Aattam* means dance, and can extend to movement; *avi* means beings. *Adavi* - dancing beings - is a portmanteau of these words.

Turn the beat around More people are taking to the parai as a musical instrument in its own right. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The collective finds its spirit in a mixture of these understandings, which it describes as "a harmonious nest where swaying trees, sprouting leaves, animals and all beings dance alike, without any boundaries in nature's rhythm."

Adavi wishes to help folk and contemporary art forms reach younger generations through a blend of community learning and political discourse.

Alongside the electrifying performance at Shoonya, Keela delved into the rich history of the parai.

The instrument is usually played at funerals by the socially disadvantaged who have, on numerous occasions, protested the demeaning treatment meted out to them.

He elaborated saying parai players barely earn any money and are often paid with alcohol.

Acknowledging its complex past, Adavi believes anyone should be allowed to play the parai. They consider it a symbol of equality as an instrument that embraces all and do not play it at funerals, but as an expression of their love for the instrument.

The collective extends this spirit of equality and faith in art as liberation to the realm of gender as well. Traditionally, the parai has been played only by men. By encouraging women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community to play the parai, Adavi attempts to change this mindset.

"I was glad to see a number of women dancing in saris. Usually, a lot of women attend our workshops, but they hardly hold performances. Today, was one of the best turnouts we've had," admits Meghana Natraj, one of the first women to join the Adavi group.

Members of the collective come from different walks of life. The group includes students, theatre practitioners, dancers, teachers, a data analyst and a cable contractor.

CITYBEATS

Identity hues

TILL AUGUST 18
As India approaches its Independence Day, Rajdhani brings the 'Tiranga Festival'. Celebrate with a specially curated menu that mirrors the colours of the Indian flag. From Tiranga barfi to Tiranga pulao, each dish will reflect the hues of freedom and unity.
At All Rajdhani outlets in Bengaluru. Call 9930091550/9538896103.

Stage lights

AUGUST 17
Join a workshop where children (ages six to 12) can learn magic while teens and adults explore the art of clowning. Led by Nikhil Raj and Ronak Sharma, this event promises bonding, creativity, and stress relief. The workshop ends with a show by participants.
At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. Tickets from ₹599 on BookMyShow.

Song and dance

AUGUST 16
Dance and sing along with Stringfisher, a new party band, as they light up the stage with electrifying covers of English, Bollywood, regional and Goan hits. This six-piece band, led by Sweethin Hartman, promises an unforgettable night of music.
At Fandom at Gilly's Redefined, Koramangala, 9pm onwards. Tickets on Insider.

'No immediate safety concern about Mullaperiyar dam'

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

There was no immediate concern regarding the safety of the Mullaperiyar dam, Kerala Water Resources Minister Roshy Augustine has said.

Speaking to mediapersons after a review meeting held at the Idukki Collectorate on Monday, Mr. Augustine warned against unwanted publicity over the safety of the Mullaperiyar dam. "The State government has made clear its stance to construct a new dam in Mullaperiyar. The government is in agreement with the people regarding the safety of the Mullaperiyar dam. However, there was no immediate concern over the structural safety of the dam," said Mr. Augustine.

"The District Collector will closely monitor the situation and will make arrangements, if needed, to open the shutters of the Mullaperiyar dam," said Mr. Augustine.

The meeting also decided to restrict vloggers, who stir up fears regarding the Mullaperiyar dam safety. Mr. Augustine said that the government will direct the police to take strict action against those who spread fake news through social media regarding the dam safety.

Mr. Augustine further said that the government is hopeful of a positive judgment from the Supreme Court soon. "The State government will also explore the possibility of resolving the Mullaperiyar issue through discussions outside the court," he said.

A ward-level vigilant meeting will be held in In Vandiperiyar soon. The meeting will be presided over by Peerumade MLA Vazhoor Soman.

Idukki MP Dean Kuriakose, Peerumade MLA Vazhoor Soman, Devikulam MLA A. Raja, District Collector V. Vigneshwari, District Police Chief Vishnu Pratheep T.K., and District panchayat president K.T. Binu, among others, attended the review meeting.

The water level in Mullaperiyar dam on Monday was 130tmcft, the maximum allowed level fixed by the top court is 142tmcft.

Petitioner moves SC for lowering water level

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court to bring down the permissible water level of the British-era Mullaperiyar dam, situated in the Western Ghats in Kerala, from 142 feet to 120 feet to obviate the possibility of a breach.

The petition referred to the landslides in Wayanad, and said that if the dam breached, five million people would be be gravely affected.

SC reserves verdict on former T.N. Minister's bail petition

ED says factors such as delayed and prolonged jail time, which favoured former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's case for bail, are not applicable to V. Senthilbalaji

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Monday said factors such as delayed and prolonged jail time, which favoured former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's case for bail in the excise policy case, are not applicable to former Tamil Nadu Minister V. Senthilbalaji, who is seeking bail in a money laundering case linked to the cash-for-jobs scam.

A Bench headed by Justice A.S. Oka reserved Mr. Senthilbalaji's bail petition for judgment. Both Mr. Senthilbalaji and Mr. Sisodia are facing money laundering charges in separate cases.

V. Senthilbalaji

On Monday, the Bench drew the ED's attention to the August 9 Supreme Court judgment allowing bail to Mr. Sisodia in the money laundering case. He had spent 17 months in jail. The apex court had said there was not even a remote chance of the trial getting under way against Mr. Sisodia, and bail could not be withheld as a punishment. The court had upheld speedy trial as a fundamental right.

But Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for the ED, countered that Mr. Senthilbalaji was "hand-in-glove" with the State. The former Minister's brother was still absconding. Witnesses in the case were turning hostile, Mr. Mehta said, and Mr. Senthilbalaji's influence was overwhelming.

"His mere incarceration for a year and the potential of a delay in trial was not enough to grant him bail," Mr. Mehta argued.

Senior advocate Guru Krishnakumar, intervening on behalf of one of the victims of the scam, said the delay in trial was due to lack of sanction by the State to try Mr. Senthilbalaji for corruption in public office. "The delay is due to the accused himself... Please call upon the State to decide time limits for the trial," he argued.

Proposed advertisement bylaws should not permit hoardings near footpaths: Karnataka HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday said that it is expected that the proposed Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Advertisement) bylaws, 2024, should include penal provisions, which may act as a deterrent against defaulters and wrong doers besides initiating penal action against them.

Also, it is expected that the provisions of the bylaws are incorporated to ensure that BBMP continuously monitors the activities of unauthorised putting up of flexes, hoardings, and advertisements.

A Division Bench issued directions in this regard while hearing the PIL petition, which the court *suo motu* had initiated last month on the failure of the BBMP to prevent illegal hoardings despite several directions issued by the court in the PIL petitions, filed way back in 2017, which had complained about menace of illegal hoardings, flexes and advertisements across the city.

The Bench also said that bylaws should also have provisions to make authorities ensure that extra precaution is taken to prevent accidents even from the flexes and advertisement hoardings that would be put up even with the valid permission as per the law.

Populated areas

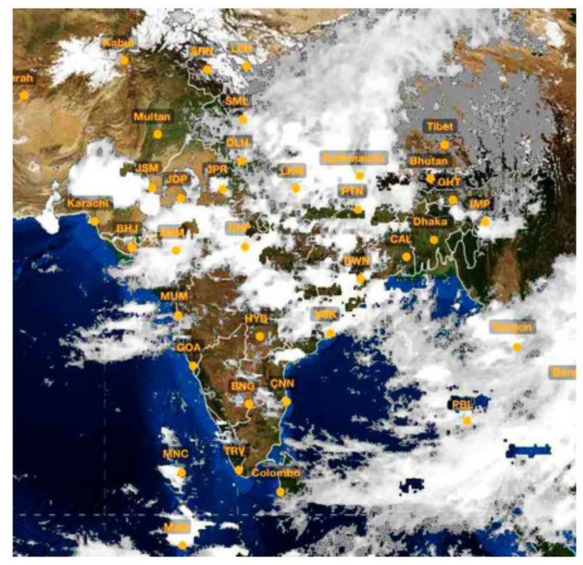
Meanwhile, the Bench made it clear that bylaws should also have a provision not to permit the putting up of flexes, hoardings, etc., in the places near pedestrian paths, near the places where there is more human movement and in the densely populated areas.

As the government and the BBMP advocates said that the proposed bylaws, a draft of which was notified on July 19 giving 30 days to the public to send objections and suggestions, would be finalised 15 days from August 19, the Bench directed that the final bylaws be placed before the court for its consideration.

The Bench gave liberty to the petitioners to submit their suggestions on draft bylaws to the authorities and submit copies to the court. Further hearing on the petitions has been adjourned till September 25.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.2	33.8	27.0	Kozhikode	—	32.4	25.5
Ahmedabad	8.7	31.3	26.4	Kurnool	—	35.0	26.0
Aizawl	—	30.8	23.4	Lucknow	2	33.7	25.8
Allahabad	0.4	33.7	26.4	Madurai	—	36.1	24.1
Bengaluru	—	29.5	19.3	Mangaluru	—	30.8	25.0
Bhopal	1	28.7	23.4	Mumbai	2	31.8	26.8
Bhubaneswar	—	33.8	27.0	Mysuru	1	30.5	20.0
Chandigarh	130	33.8	23.8	New Delhi	30	31.6	24.8
Chennai	—	36.0	25.7	Patna	28	34.6	26.3
Coimbatore	9	34.6	23.4	Port Blair	9.6	31.4	25.4
Dehradun	16	33.0	23.6	Puducherry	—	34.3	28.0
Gangtok	11	22.6	18.5	Pune	7.1	30.1	21.8
Goa	3	31.8	25.6	Raipur	7.2	31.0	25.0
Guwahati	28	34.9	25.1	Ranchi	14	31.7	23.2
Hubballi	—	30.0	23.0	Shillong	0.8	24.0	17.3
Hyderabad	28	32.6	29.0	Shimla	14	25.0	19.2
Imphal	0.4	28.2	23.1	Srinagar	—	33.1	19.5
Jaipur	118	26.9	24.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.7	25.5
Kochi	0.2	30.4	26.2	Tiruchi	—	36.7	25.0
Kohima	1.5	22.4	18.0	Vijayawada	—	36.8	27.4
Kolkata	—	35.2	27.8	Visakhapatnam	—	33.6	28.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.35	..18	48	 72	93	.....
Bengaluru	...8	..28	43	 26	...108	.....
Chennai	...6	6	62	... 190	...156	.....
Delhi	.32	..64	22	 79	74	.....
Hyderabad	...8	..38	61	 42	61	.....
Kolkata	...8	..49	18	 65	59	.....
Lucknow	.11	..28	42	 36	50	.....
Mumbai	.27	..24	23	 27	41	.....
Pune	..—	..30	43	 18	34	.....
Visakhapatnam	..—	..—	11	..... —	.....—	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Durgapur, West Bengal recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 152 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Nagarlagun, Arunachal Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड
(एक महारत्न कंपनी)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd **www.coalindia.in** / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Procurement Portal **htttps://eprocure.gov.in**. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**".

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: 13 UBL 2024-25
Dated : 05-08-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
SWR : Hubballi Division - Provision of fencing for location boxes of signalling installation to safe guard and avoid outside interference over Hubballi Division.	Rs. 92,21,611.45

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 04-09-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Assistant Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Hubballi
PUB/342/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2024-25/39
Dated : 05.08.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) **1)** Provision and Improvement by generating Solar power for water pumping equipment at 10 locations over Mysuru Division. and **2)** Provision of Solar pumps at various locations over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 89,68,360/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 26-08-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General Mysuru
PUB/336/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mrs. Manjula.P W/o.Nagaraju.H, Aged about 32 years, residing at No.966, 6th Cross, Ullal Upanagar, Bangalore-560056, has LOST THE ORIGINAL GIFT DEED DATED 11.06.2014, REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.SRI-1-01465/2014-15 OF BOOK-1, STORED IN CD NO.SRID166, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR SUB-REGISTRAR SRIRAMPURA, BANGALORE, LOST AT NEAR ULLALU UPANAGARA BUS STAND, BANGALORE - 560056 ON 10.06.2024, BETWEEN 01:00PM TO 02:00PM. A COMPLAINT IS LODGED IN ONLINE DATED 12.08.2024 VIDE LOST REPORT BEARING NO.1190034/2024, Finders may return the same to the near Police Station or contact at the below address.
if any persons, firm, company, Financial institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the below mentioned address in writing within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
BHASKAR.M,
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS,
Office: No.40, 2nd Floor, 71st Cross, near 6th Block Signal, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 **Land line**: 080-48520073

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.
E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2024-25/37
Dated : 02.08.2024

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Modification of OHE for Canal Crossing at Habanghatta Station.	Rs. 24,32,547.06

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 23-08-2024**

E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2024-25/38
Dated : 02.08.2024

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) Outsourcing of OHE & PSI activities in Chikjajur - Rayadurg Section for a period of 2 Years.	Rs. 3,06,45,732.43

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 23-08-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Mysuru
PUB/335/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 07-SNT-MYS-2024
Dated : 06-08-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	Provision of Intermediate Block Signal between Arsikere and Banavara Station on both UP and Down line.	Rs. 3,61,49,043.63
2	Replacement of conventional type block instrument with SSBPAC to enhance the reliability of the block instrument in Arsikere - Birur section of Mysuru Division.	Rs. 1,13,93,857.69

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 Hrs on 28-08-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication, Mysuru
PUB/337/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that my client **Mrs.Veena.B, w/o.Rajappa,** has lost the Original Sale Deed dated 21.01.2013, registered as Document No.2904, of Book I, stored in CD.No.BTMD46, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, BTM Layout, in respect of the schedule property. My client has informed that inspite of her best efforts she was unable to trace the same and has also lodged an online police complaint on 12.08.2024 in respect of the same.
If any Person/s find the aforesaid original Sale Deed, they may handover the same to the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of this publication.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the **Site No.103,** Katha No.64, situated at **Mylasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** measuring East to West 40 feet, North to South 20 feet, in all measuring **800 sq.ft.,** with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever, whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:
East by : Road
West by : Site No.130
North by : Site No.102
South by : Remaining portion of Site No.103
Sahai Kumar, Advocate,
311, 2nd Floor, 3rd Main, 3rd Phase, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore-560 078
Call : 9845090974

TOWN PANCHAYAT KANKANWADI
Taluk : Raybag, Dist : Belagavi.
No. : T.P.K./I.S.W.M./2024-25/29 **Date : 09-08-2024**
TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP - Portal)
The Chief Officer Town Panchayat Kankanwadi here by inviting tender for procurement of **various goods and Machines under SBM 2.0 DPR Grant Year 2023-24.** From eligible Manufactures and Suppliers registered firms. As per the coditions of standard tender document KG - 1, KG - 2 and KG - 3.
Details are as follows Goods Indent No, : 2772, 2878, 2879, 2881, 2883, 2885, 2886, 2887 and 2888. Estimate Cost : 65.00 to 0.80 Lakhs Time Limit : 2 months to 15 days months including Mansoon. Last Date for Submission of filled Tenders : 27-08-2024 at 4.30 p.m., Date of Opening of Technical Bids : 29-08-2024 at 11.00 a.m., Date of Opening of Financial Bids : 31-08-2024 at 11.00 a.m.
For further information Login to www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and Logon to www.kankanwaditown.mrc.gov.in or contact the Town Panchayat Office.
Note : Any changes or correction in tenders will be notified in online website only.
Sd/- Chief Officer, Town Panchayat, Kankanwadi **Sd/- Administrator, Town Panchayat, Kankanwadi**
DIPR/Belagavi/591/Manipal/2024-25

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No. 36/2024 Dated : 06-08-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the supply of following item.

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty.
1	L8245986A	IGBT Auxiliary converter for 3 Phase locomotives - 3x130 KVA IGBT based auxiliary converter complete (01 loco set)	01 Set
2	L8246186	Design, Supply, installation, commissioning and prove out of the machine, Electric Overhead Traveling Crane shall be Double girder	01 Set

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs for Sl. No. 1 is on 29-08-2024 and for Sl. No. 2 is on 30-08-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru
PUB/338/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR southwesternrailway_swr SWRRLY southwesternrailway SWRRLY

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, West Zone, Room No.101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.
No: EE(QA/QC)/West/TEND/37/2024-25 **Date: 12-08-2024**
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance / Quality Control Division, West Zone, BBMP, invites Request for Proposal from interested Persons / Firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for the below works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of Providing Junction Improvement Works under SURAKSHA-75 in Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads at Nayandahalli Junction, Mysore Sandal Soap Factory Junction, Yeshwanthpura Junction, K.G. Circle, Vital Nagaraj Road and Rajajinagara Road in West Zone. **EMD Amount (in Rs.): 17,500/-**
2	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of Providing Junction Improvement Works under SURAKSHA-75 in Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads at Chord Road Basaveshwaranagara Junction, Bellary Road, Chowdaiah Road, Vijayanagar Bus Stand Circle, Sirsi Circle and Nagarbhavi Circle (ORR) in West Zone. **EMD Amount (in Rs.): 20,000/-**
3	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of Reconstruction and Renovation of Govt. School Buildings in Ward No. 136 and 137 (JJR Nagar). **(Package-03) - EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-**
4	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of Reconstruction and Renovation Works for Various Govt. School Buildings, Anganawadi and Providing RO Plants and Public Toilets in Chamarajpet Assembly Constituency. **(Package-04) - EMD Amount (in Rs.): 25,000/-**
5	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of Comprehensive Development Works, Providing Asphalting, Deck Slab, CC Road and Other Improvement Works, Providing Footpath Pavers, Improvement to Drains, Culvert at Gandhinagara Sub Division **(Package-01)** in Ward No. 94, 95, 96 (Annexure-2 As per GO Sl No. 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91,92 & 93) - **EMD Amount (in Rs.): 42,500/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 14-08-2024. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **20-08-2024 at 11.00 AM at the Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Room No. 101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. 3)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: **23-08-2024 upto 4.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **26-08-2024 at 4.30 PM.** Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, West Zone, BBMP.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
STATE HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Office of The Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, PWD Annexe Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
Website: www.shdpkar.in e-Mail: cepiushdp@gmail.com
No: CPO/SHDP/Tech/EE-3/Phase-5(Stage-1)/Tender Notification/2024-25/2642 Date: 12.08.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF STATE HIGHWAYS & MAJOR DISTRICT ROADS UNDER SHDP-PHASE 5 (STAGE-1)
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 08/2024-25 DATED: 12-08-2024
On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Chief Engineer (Additional Charge), Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Class-I contractors registered with KPWD/CPWD. approved vide G.O No: PWD E-304 EAP 2023 Bengaluru, Dated: 29.02.2024 for below mentioned package works under SHDP Phase-5 (Stage-1), as per Standard Tender Document (KW-4) and SHDP norms in two cover system. The Tenderers may submit tenders for the work given in the table through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender inclusive of 18% GST (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Class of Contractor	Duration
1	**PKG Nos:** 621, 709, 741, 743, 758, 805, 806 **(2nd Call). PKG Nos:** 682, 696, 697, 811, 812 **(3rd Call).**	Package wise amount put to tender may be obtained through KPP Portal	Package wise EMD may be obtained through KPP Portal	Class-I & above	11 months (including monsoon)

TENDER PROCESS DETAILS: (1) Tender documents can be downloaded in KPP Portal from: **16.08.2024** to **23.08.2024** upto **4:30 P.M. (2)** Pre-Tender meeting on: **19.08.2024** at **11:30 A.M.** (O/o Chief Project Officer, SHDP, Bangalore). **(3)** Last Date & time for receipt of Tenders: **23.08.2024** upto **4:30 P.M. (4)** Date & time for opening of Technical Bid: **27.08.2024** at **11:30 A.M. onwards. (5)** Tentative Date & time for opening of Financial Bid: **04.09.2024** at **11.30 A.M. (6)** Corrigendum/ addendums and modifications in notification if any will be published in KPP portal only.
Registered Contractors in KPWD/CPWD and e-procurement are eligible to participate in tender.
Any information about the tendered works can be obtained from O/o The Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru during office hours on all working days and also through **support@eprochelpdesk.com** KPP Portal helpdesk telephone nos are +91-8046010000 / +91-8068948777.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Additional Charge), PIU-SHDP, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/1426/SPAN/2024-25

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, RR Nagara, Room no.101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP, N R Square, Bangalore-02
No: EE(QA/QC)/RRN/TEND/33/24-25 **Date: 12.08.2024**
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
The Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Quality Assurance/Quality Control division invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those **who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC)** for the below works through e-Procurement system by the Executive Engineer QA/QC, RR Nagara Zone BBMP.

S.N.	Name of the work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the "Providing Junction Improvement works under SURAKSHA-75 IN Arterial and Sub-rterial roads at Summanahalli junction, Kengeri bus terminal junction, Nice road Kengeri road junction & Jayanna circle at Kenchanahalli road in RR Nagara Zone". **EMD :** Rs.15,000/-.

Time Schedule/Calendar of events: 1) Tender Document may be downloaded: through E-portal form : 14.08.2024. 2) Pre-bid Meeting : 20.08.2024 at 11.00 AM Office of the Executive Engineer(QA/QC) R.no.101, Annex-3 building. BBMP N R Square, Bangalore-560 002. 3) Last Date & Time for receipt of: Tenders: 23.08.2024 up to 4:00 PM. 4) Opening of Technical bid : 26.08.2024 at 4:30 PM. 5) Validity of Tender: 90 Days from last date of receipts of Tender
Sd/- Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, RR Nagara Zone.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2024-25/39
Dated : 05.08.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) **1)** Provision and Improvement by generating Solar power for water pumping equipment at 10 locations over Mysuru Division. and **2)** Provision of Solar pumps at various locations over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 89,68,360/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 26-08-2024**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General Mysuru
PUB/336/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that, my client, Mrs. Manjula.P W/o.Nagaraju.H, Aged about 32 years, residing at No.966, 6th Cross, Ullal Upanagar, Bangalore-560056, has LOST THE ORIGINAL GIFT DEED DATED 11.06.2014, REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.SRI-1-01465/2014-15 OF BOOK-1, STORED IN CD NO.SRID166, IN THE OFFICE OF THE SENIOR SUB-REGISTRAR SRIRAMPURA, BANGALORE, LOST AT NEAR ULLALU UPANAGARA BUS STAND, BANGALORE - 560056 ON 10.06.2024, BETWEEN 01:00PM TO 02:00PM. A COMPLAINT IS LODGED IN ONLINE DATED 12.08.2024 VIDE LOST REPORT BEARING NO.1190034/2024, Finders may return the same to the near Police Station or contact at the below address.
if any persons, firm, company, Financial institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they may contact the below mentioned address in writing within 15 days from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
BHASKAR.M,
ADVOCATES & LEGAL CONSULTANTS,
Office: No.40, 2nd Floor, 71st Cross, near 6th Block Signal, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010 **Land line**: 080-48520073

Kashmir file

J&K needs a participatory democratic set-up to deal with people's needs

The recent two-day visit by a team of the Election Commission of India (ECI), led by the Chief Election Commissioner, Rajiv Kumar, to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) – its second since March to meet representatives of political parties and the local administration – comes amid the growing chorus from regional parties to hold elections to the 90-seat Assembly of the five-year-old Union Territory (UT). In its December 2023 judgment on Article 370, the Supreme Court was specific in its direction on holding elections in J&K. The Court had noted that "direct elections to legislative assemblies cannot be put on hold until Statehood is restored" and directed the ECI to conduct elections in J&K by September 30, 2024. The erstwhile State of J&K was bifurcated into two UTs, and its special status scrapped in 2019. J&K saw its last Assembly election in 2014. After the collapse of the coalition government of the Peoples' Democratic Party-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2018, J&K has not had a representative government. The Centre should be buoyed by the faith shown by voters in the Lok Sabha elections held in April-May this year. Voters chose to depart from the previous trend, especially in the Kashmir Valley, of election boycotts, and instead posted a historic turnout of 58% in five Lok Sabha seats. Since 1990, J&K's voting percentage had never crossed the 50% mark.

Therefore, holding Assembly elections will be a statement of confidence by the Centre. It will also be a positive reciprocation to voter enthusiasm. The Centre has been accused by several rights groups of curtailing democratic processes in J&K since its semi-autonomous status ended in 2019. Allowing people to choose their representatives will be a major step towards ensuring the restoration and the building up of political processes. Recurrent militant attacks in J&K point to the fact that a lot of work is still required to attain complete peace in J&K. However, making elections subservient to the security situation will only make the Centre hostage to the whims of terrorists. On the one hand, the Centre needs to further its efforts to deal with militancy, while on the other, kick off political processes. Assembly elections can turn out to be a democratic instrument to ensure that any sense of alienation does not get amplified and exploited by the enemies of the country. J&K needs to have a participatory democratic set-up in place to deal with issues such as growing unemployment, electricity crisis, and poor health infrastructure. These elections have the potential to act as a healing process for a place wounded by over three decades of conflict.

More and better

States must develop capacity to conduct testing and sequencing of viruses

Since the Zika outbreak began on June 20, when the first case was reported from Pune, confirmed cases have been slowly but steadily rising. As of August first week, Maharashtra has reported 88 confirmed cases.Pune city, the epicentre, alone accounts for 73 cases, while six are from Pune rural. Of the total number reported so far, at 37, pregnant women alone account for half the number of confirmed infections. Though rare, people with Zika virus infection run a risk of suffering from Guillain-Barré syndrome, a neurological disorder in which the immune system mistakenly attacks part of the peripheral nervous system. But a more harmful effect is seen in pregnant women who run a risk of giving birth to babies with a smaller than average head size, called microcephaly, and other neurological impairments. As in a January 2023 paper in *The Lancet Regional Health - Americas*, a meta-analysis of babies born to 1,548 pregnant women infected with the Zika virus, from 13 studies in Brazil between 2015 and 2017, found the absolute risk of microcephaly to be 6.6% either at birth or during follow-up. Babies also had 18.7% absolute risk of suffering from functional neurological abnormalities, and a relatively smaller risk of neuroimaging, ophthalmic and auditory abnormalities. There was also a significant risk of premature birth (10.5%), low birth weight and small for gestational age (16.2%). Less known is the risk of sexual transmission of the virus by infected men due to the presence of potentially infectious virus in their semen for at least two months. It is hence important for infected men, especially those planning a family, to be made aware of the risk as well as recommend measures to prevent viral transmission to women for at least three months, as in the U.S. CDC guidelines.

Given the harmful effects of the virus, it is shocking that the Pune-based ICMR lab ramped up testing only after the publication of news about the Pune Municipal Corporation planning to send samples to a government medical college instead to cut the delay in testing. As Kerala just demonstrated in the latest outbreak of the Nipah virus, and as Gujarat learnt it the hard way in the ongoing Chandipura virus outbreak and acute encephalitis syndrome cases, it is becoming increasingly important and necessary that States develop the capacity to conduct high-quality testing and sequencing of viruses that cause frequent and deadly outbreaks. From the time that the first suspected case is observed, the reduction in the lead time to test results is the key to instituting timely public health responses that can limit the virus spread and stop an outbreak. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the advantages of decentralised testing and sequencing, and this should be replicated for every pathogen that causes deadly outbreaks.

Disinformation, AI and 'cyber chakravyuh'

M.K. Narayanan

a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

The year 2024 had dawned with forebodings of a new wave of security threats, and security specialists the world over, had braced for a wave of attacks along a wide spectrum. Their concerns essentially stemmed from fears arising out of new threats posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its different manifestations, including Generative AI and Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). Together with the expanding horizons of disinformation and cyber threats, the outlook seemed distinctly gloomy.

The 33rd Summer Olympic Games in France, during July-August 2024, were seen as a real and tempting target for digital, including cyber and other criminals. Experts across the world were, hence, bracing themselves for digital attacks of a kind they had not encountered hitherto, quite apart from those launched by known terror groups.

Such fears were not unfounded, given the rising profile of both AI and cyber, and the consequential increase in disinformation attacks. Several months down the road, the absence of any spectacular attack has been a relief. This is no reason to relax the vigil as newer variations of digital threats are beginning to emerge. The Paris Games ended peacefully, but eternal vigilance is still the price that security agencies need to pay to ensure proper safety. Undoubtedly, an Olympic Games of this size passing off without a major incident is indeed a triumph for security managers engaged in providing security for the Games, yet vigil can hardly be relaxed.

The year so far

It might be worthwhile to look back and see what did, or did not, happen in 2024. The year started seeming to confirm the prognosis that 2024 may well be the year when the world confronts a cornucopia of security threats. Disinformation was already having a field day in the run up to the elections in Taiwan in January 2024, and the atmosphere was loaded with fake posts and videos, causing widespread confusion. This was attributed to China, but we live in a world today where nothing is what it seems. What was, however, evident was that the advent of AI seemed to have made it far easier to spread disinformation cloaked in the garb of reality. AI was the principal, though not, perhaps, the sole culprit.

It is indeed true that spreading disinformation has become far easier with the advent of AI. Deep fakes, comprising digitally manipulated video, audio, or images, repeatedly hit the headlines today, causing a miasma of disinformation. The truth is revealed much later – and after the damage has been done.

Yet, there is not enough comprehension today, about the threat posed by AI generated or other types of deep fakes. Together with cyber attacks, the world needs to realise that we face a new and grim reality which cannot be ignored any longer. National security stands imperilled by these newer threats. But even when it manifests itself, there is not enough comprehension of what is taking place. A combination of cyber attacks and AI-enabled disinformation had and is still, causing grave havoc in the conflict in Ukraine. Ukraine is a good case study of how two sides in a conflict could employ disinformation – including AI-enabled disruption – against one another, to each other's disadvantage. Together with cyber attacks, this has led to major disruptions in critical infrastructure, including telecommunications and power grids.

> This year may well be the one when the world confronts a cornucopia of security threats

The CrowdStrike outage as 'preview'

The world had a preview last month of what could happen, or is in store, in the event of a massive cyberattack, whether AI-enabled or otherwise. A 'glitch' in a software update concerning Microsoft Windows caused a massive outage, which initially affected parts of the United States, but rapidly spread to different parts of the globe, including India. It disrupted flight operations, air traffic, stock exchanges and more. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) issued a severity rating of 'critical' for the incident. This was, however, not a cyberattack, but it provided a preview of the kind of disruption that could take place in the event of a cyberattack. According to Microsoft, over eight million Windows devices failed, leading to global disruption on a massive scale.

Human memory tends to be short, and it may be necessary to remind the world about some of the better known cyberattacks in the past, which caused mayhem across the globe. The world may, or may not, remember the widespread disruption that occurred in 2017 in the wake of the WannaCry ransomware attack employing the WannaCry ransomware cryptoworm, which infected well over 2,30,000 computers in 150 countries, resulting in damage amounting to billions of dollars. The same year witnessed another cyberattack using the Shamoon Computer Virus which was directed mainly against oil companies such as SA ARAMCO (Saudi Arabia) and RasGas (Qatar), and was labelled, at the time, as the 'biggest hack in history'. Again, around the same period, a cyberattack involving the 'Petya' Malware severely affected banks, electricity grids and a host of other institutions across Europe and the United Kingdom, as also the U.S. and Australia.

Few cyberattacks have, however, had a more devastating impact than that caused by the Stuxnet 'attack' in 2010. Over 2,00,000 computers were impacted and physically degraded as a result. Stuxnet was a malicious computer worm, believed to have been in development for nearly five years, and specifically targeting supervisory control and data acquisition systems. The target in this case was the Iran nuclear programme, leading to the inference that it was state sponsored. What is now known is that Stuxnet's design and architecture is not domain specific, but could be tailored for attacking most modern systems in use.

Growing cyber threats

While the potential threat posed by AI disinformation looms large across the global landscape, for ordinary individuals, cyber is already a persisting threat. The number of victims of cyber fraud and cyber hacking has grown exponentially in recent years. Our day-to-day existence is threatened by fraudsters posing as delivery company agents and making delivery attempts, and, in the process, obtaining personal information for malicious use.

There is today a rising curve of false credit card transactions, obtaining personal information in the process to defraud unwitting individuals. Compromising business e-mails is on the increase. One of the most widespread cyber frauds is 'phishing', that involves stealing personal information such as customer ID, credit\debit card numbers, and even PIN. The list is extensive and extends to 'spamming' as well (where someone receives unsolicited commercial messages sent through one of the many electronic messaging systems). 'Identity theft' is among the most serious dangers that has now become widespread.

Across the democratic world, governments are seeking to put in place proper systems to deal with digital threats. Industry and private institutions, however, appear to be lagging behind. It is the latter segment that is, perhaps, the most vulnerable to digital attacks. Having in place firewalls, anti-virus defences and a good back-up and disaster recovery system are not enough. Most CEOs of companies, again, are not adequately equipped to deal with digital threats. Hence it might be useful to have a chief information and security officer to look at their systems and advise them as to what they should do.

Awareness of the growing danger of digital threats is but the first step in the battle against cyber and AI-directed threats. Unauthorised use of Generative AI content has already become the stock-in-trade of digital bullying. Preventing this demands a great deal of effort and adequate budgetary allocations – whether in the private or public domain.

More than anything else, potentially dangerous digital technologies require more, and the specific, attention of those in-charge, specially in the case of democracies. Awareness about digital bullying and other forms of manipulation is fundamental if we are to prevent situations getting out of hand. More than anything else, there is a need to create a realisation that the struggle against digital threats calls for coordinated action. Also, a realisation that nations, especially democracies, are today under attack from a new and different source. There is, hence, every need to counter digital surveillance, disinformation, bullying and manipulation, for our survival.

The top court as custodian of liberties

Ashwani Kumar

Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and a former Union Minister for Law and Justice

Former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's enlargement on bail by the Supreme Court of India, after an unconscionably long incarceration, is a welcome vindication of the apex court's remit as custodian of individual liberties. In an eloquent exposition of its mandate, the Court reiterated that 'a constitutional court has to lean in favour of constitutionalism and the rule of law of which liberty is an intrinsic part…'

Citing its judgment in *Arnab Manoranjan Goswami vs The State of Maharashtra and Ors.* (2020), it reaffirmed that 'liberty across human eras is as tenacious as tenacious can be'. Reiterating the salutary constitutional principle expounded as early as 1977 by Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, that bail is the rule and jail an exception, the Court reaffirmed that the right to fair and speedy trial was implicit in the right to life under Article 21. It concluded that this right was denied to Mr. Sisodia.

Earlier observations

In arriving at its conclusions, the Court relied on the observations of the Court in its first order of October 30, 2023 (*Manish Sisodia vs Central Bureau of Investigation*), and also the submissions advanced before it in the first round, adverting particularly to the 56,000 pages of documents and 456 witnesses (at that stage which, numbers were subsequently increased) in the two cases – and which the Court felt could delay the trial and conclusion of the case inordinately. It also referred to and relied upon several of its judgments, from *Kashmira Singh* (1977) till the later decisions– (in *P. Chidambaram* (2020) and *Satender Kumar Antil* (2022) – on the accused's right to speedy trial. To these could be added the Court's decision in *Sheikh Javed Iqbal* (2024).

Stating further that the constitutional mandate must prevail as the higher law, the apex court ruled, in *Manish Sisodia vs Directorate of Enforcement*, purposively that 'the right to bail in cases of delay, coupled with incarceration for a long period, depending on the nature of the allegations, should be read into Section 439 Cr.PC and Section 45 of the PMLA [Prevention of Money Laundering Act]'.

> The Manish Sisodia case raises the question whether the liberty of individuals can be held hostage to the benevolence or sense of fairness of the prosecutor alone

In its entirety, the judgment must gladden the hearts of libertarians, considering the troubling and persistent apprehensions about the weaponising of the stringent penal laws in the country, and concerns about the oppressive application and implementation of the PMLA. Taking cognisance of the information furnished to Parliament recently, the Court noticed that out of the over 5,000 cases brought under the PMLA in the last 10 years, only 40 cases resulted in convictions. In his statement in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister of State for Finance disclosed that 'the ED filed 15 enforcement case information reports (ECIRs) in 2019, followed by 28 in 2020, 26 in 2021, 34 in 2022, 26 in 2023 and three in 2024 as on July 31. Only one conviction in the cases was reported to have been made in 2020.

Clearly, the processes of our criminal justice system, leading to endless delays, are oppressive, with procedure itself being the punishment. The reality of the technicalities of procedural laws defeating justice has been judicially recognised and eloquently summed up as 'the mortality of justice at the hands of law' – *Sushil Kumar Sen* (1975); *Rani Kusum* (2005).

A caveat

Notwithstanding its unexceptionable constitutional merit, the judgment begs a troubling question. Was it right for the Court, consistent with its other observations in the first round, to condone the custodial confinement of the accused based on the statement of the prosecution that the trial would be completed within six to eight months? Or to extend the detention of the accused on the basis of the prosecuting counsel's statement recorded in the Court's second order of June 4, 2024 that the complaint/charge sheet would be filed on or before July 3, 2024? In a sense, does this not make the prosecutor a judge in its own cause, contrary to the first principles of natural justice and vitiating at its core the procedural imperatives of fair trial?

The guarantee of civil liberties

In our constitutional scheme, the liberty of individuals cannot be held hostage to the benevolence or sense of fairness of the prosecutor alone. It must stand on the unbreacheable foundation of justice anchored in inalienable rights 'born in flesh, carried in our bodies from birth to death'. We know that sacrosanct rights 'undergrid' the law; that there is no virtue in legal processes that are unjust and laws that fail to render justice must be changed. Denial of freedom is denial of humanity itself. Therefore, its preservation against excesses of the executive is the first charge on the apex Court's constitutional and moral authority. Although the ultimate guarantee of civil liberties lies in the faith and assertion of the people, as Justice Robert Jackson of the United States reminded us in *Douglas vs City of Jeannette* (1943), the courts' auxiliary protection against encroachment of human rights is the crucial test of a vibrant democracy.

In eventually restoring Mr. Sisodia's liberty, pending the final decision in his case, the apex court has redeemed itself of the charge of ambivalence in the earlier rounds despite the existence of legal and factual basis for bail. It need not now 'trudge on the debris of conscience'. The judgment would have served its purpose if undertrials are not made to languish in custody endlessly, with their freedom, reputation, privacy and dignity irretrievably lost without apology or recompense. And, the nation must repurpose its politics away from personal animosities in an ennobling pursuit of justice and dignity for all, thereby revitalising a democracy under stress.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hindenburg report

The denial of allegations that have been raised in the latest Hindenburg report (against SEBI and its chairperson) is on expected lines and hardly clears the air. The crux of the matter is the opacity around offshore funds investing in the Indian stock market. It is strange that the ruling party at the Centre has rushed in to assert that 'many global forces with the help of the Congress's dynasty' are attempting to target India's progress. That the ruling dispensation will try to stonewall the issue in the coming days is clear. The Congress party's demand for a JPC probe is likely to end up as a cry in the wilderness. One fervently hopes the top court will take steps to ensure the holding of an independent inquiry.

Manohar Alembath,
Kannur, Kerala

Hindenburg Research's relentless attacks are a blatant attempt to undermine India's economic progress and stability. The government must reassure investors and the public that India's regulatory framework is robust and capable of handling such unwarranted attacks.

M. Ramdas Menon,
Kallai, Kozhikode, Kerala

The vanishing sparrow

The decline of sparrows points to biodiversity loss ('Open Page', August 11). It is our responsibility to make sure that this little bird holds its own.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Possible revival of Dalit politics today

Harish S. Wankhede

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In the 2024 general election, with the decline of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in Uttar Pradesh and the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) in Maharashtra, the independent political assertion of Dalit politics has been relegated to a new low. However, Dalit political parties like the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) in Bihar and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) in Tamil Nadu showcased a promise that Dalit politics can remain relevant in the democratic discourse if they form alliances with national political fronts.

Such diversification within the Dalit political discourse shows that the heightened ideological commitment to the Ambedkarite political values is diminishing, as Dalit political parties are exploring various alternatives to find meaning in their existence. This heterogeneity also reveals that the Dalit parties and leaders lack a grand political vision to build a national front against the conventional ruling elites, remaining comfortable with their regional specificities. For the rebirth of Dalit politics, newer ideological virtues under a committed political leadership are essential.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar expected that modern democracy would not re-establish the power and privileges of the conventional social elites but would instead allow the socially marginalised groups to take centre stage in transforming the power structure. He envisioned that independent India's new polity would allow Dalits to emerge as robust leaders of marginalised social groups and challenge the domination of social elites over political power. With the decline of parties, like the BSP and VBA, there are few takers of such a revolutionary vision.

Recently, Dalit politics based on the ideals of social justice have continuously been marginalised and have remained passive. The divisions between Dalit political parties showcase that there is no consensus on ideological parameters. The Dalit leadership lacks political vision and influential social initiatives. While other political parties have often joined hands to secure their class and social interests, Dalit parties hardly pondered the possibility of uniting different Dalit political and social organisations at the national level. These parties often remain attached to their regional specificities and lack the political imagination to ally with the social justice parties to announce a robust national Dalit agenda. Other marginalised communities, such as the Adivasis and Muslims, also hesitate to open a sincere dialogue with Dalit political outfits, as their political commitment and ideological merit often remain under doubt. Instead, national political fronts, especially the Congress, have reinvented themselves by engaging with the concerns of the marginalised social groups and building impressive campaigns to safeguard constitutional ideals.

In this context, the victory of Chandrashekhar Azad from the Nagina parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh is a significant marker of the possibility of the arrival of independent Dalit politics. In contrast to the BSP-VBA bloc, Mr. Azad showed that a winning combination could be formed by building an engagement with the marginalised social groups, particularly Muslims. Further, on the ideological front, he offered a powerful challenge not only to right-wing politics but also reprimanded the secular-socialist political outfits for neglecting the issues of marginalised social groups. Building such an impressive social base with radical ideological values can revibrate the dormant Dalit movement today.

While other political parties have often joined hands to secure their class and social interests, the Dalit parties hardly pondered the possibility of uniting different Dalit political and social organisations at the national level

Unified political bloc

Similar to the INDIA bloc that created a collective political assertion based on the ideals of social justice and secularism, a unified political bloc of Dalit parties, especially the BSP, VCK, and VBA, could reenergise the dormant social justice movement and mobilise oppressed communities for a substantive political change. The diverse Dalit political movements need to consider organising a unified political bloc, an alliance of all the Dalit parties at the national level. Such a bloc could associate with other regional and national alliances to form a broader political alliance over the slogan of social justice and the ideals of the Indian Constitution. It is equally important for the Dalit leaders and parties to imagine themselves as essential components in the battle against the right-wing juggernaut. However, till recent times, it is visible that the political decisions of parties like the BSP and the VBA mostly segregate the Dalits from associating with secular progressive alternatives and indirectly help the BJP.

Such an alliance is possible only if the segmented Dalit movement decides to come together to rewrite a new manifesto for social justice to confront the challenges raised by the neo-liberal economy and Hindutva fundamentalism. This ideological programme is possible if the current leadership could reduce their petty egos, sort out the intra-Dalit skirmishes with sensitivity, and work together to end their ideological diversions. For the revival of Dalit politics, it is imperative that contemporary Dalit leadership offers intellectual and visionary leadership to challenge the current passivity and dependency. It is required that various stakeholders, intellectuals, and civil society activists engage in deliberation upon the possibility of a federal Dalit front, forcing the political parties to reimagine their strategies and ideological goals.

A robust and engaged public deliberation to imagine a radical agenda for Dalit emancipation will help to rebuild a national movement for a substantive transformation in the economic and political spectrum.

Power sector woes in Andhra Pradesh

NDA government faces the daunting task of 're-energising' the power sector

STATE OF PLAY

V. Raghavendra
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The initial exuberance of the NDA government in Andhra Pradesh quickly faded as it realised the daunting task of moving the bifurcation-hit State forward.

The government is concerned about the power sector, which, according to a White Paper released by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on July 9, was beset by a huge 'legacy loss' of ₹1,29,503 crore.

Given the pressing need to put the AP-Genco, AP-Transco, and the DISCOMs back on track, the government started revisiting the reforms in the power sector, aiming to restore its position as the top in the country. The due priority is to streamline supply to industrial consumers, and to the farm sector for nine hours during daytime.

The government noted that the operational and financial parameters of the power utilities have deteriorated in the last five years. While conducting its study, it sought suggestions from all stakeholders.

Financially, the outstanding power sector loans amount to nearly ₹1.10 lakh crore, of which roughly ₹25,000 crore are owed by the government to DISCOMs for pending subsidy arrears and charges payable by government departments for electricity consumed by office buildings, lift irrigation schemes, and local bodies.

Besides, DISCOMs made partial payments to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) during the controversial review of the long-term solar and wind Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) in 2019-24 and they [DISCOMs] are obliged to pay the remaining amounts with interest having lost their case in the court.

Notably, the Ministry of Power had warned of the consequences of reviewing or negotiating the PPAs, but to no avail, as the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government went ahead with its decision.

The total generation capacity increased from approximately 5,460 Megawatts (MW) in 2014-15, when the TDP came to power, to about 14,930 MW five years later.

A notable project under way is the 2,750-MW Integrated Renewable Energy Project (IREP) at Pinnapuram, touted as the world's largest Gigawatt-scale integrated project, comprising 1,200 MW of Pumped Storage Hydropower (PSH), 1,000 MW of solar and 550 MW wind power, expandable to a 7,400 MW.

While the Commercial Operation Date of the IREP is still a few months away and other PSH projects are in various stages, the AP-Genco commissioned two new thermal power units of 800 MW last year.

The generation side has, therefore, something to cheer about, despite the looming obligation to retire obsolete thermal units numbering 11 of 210 MW, at the Narla Tatarao, Sri Damodaram Sanjeevaiah, and Rayalaseema Thermal Power Stations, after 2030.

Another issue is the inordinate delay in constructing the 960-MW Polavaram hydroelectric power plant, which suffered a major setback due to the termination of the turnkey contractor and the hiring of a new one. This resulted in protracted litigation, including an ongoing arbitration process expected to cost a whopping ₹1,500 crore. The Polavaram hydropower plant was scheduled to be commissioned in May 2023. There is an estimated generation loss of 3,000 Million Units (MU) till the latest expected commissioning date of January 2026. The delays in various projects entailed a huge burden in terms of the cost of power purchases. The precarious financial position of the utilities, mainly the DISCOMs, has been a cause for worry.

It is pertinent to mention that the YSRCP government allegedly raised power tariffs nine times during its tenure (2019-24), in the form of true-up and other charges to shore up its finances.

Meanwhile, the TDP claimed that the government did not jack up the tariffs even once, and the subsidy component increased from ₹2,607 crore in 2014- 15 to ₹6,575 crore by the end of 2018-19.

The deliberate backing down of some generators in 2019-22 to buy power from short-term sources had major financial implications. These are only some aspects of the State power sector.

The government's ultimate objective is to provide a quality, reliable, and affordable power supply for 24 hours.

The government has to do a tough balancing act of carefully managing the financial standing of the utilities (mainly DISCOMs) and meeting the burgeoning grid demand by making incremental renewable energy capacity additions.

Socio-economic differentials within SCs/STs

Disparities among SC/ST sub-groups have led the Court to endorse sub-classification, aiming at ensuring a fairer distribution of reservation benefits

DATA POINT

Sanjeer Alam

A common critique of the group-based approach to affirmative action policies is that it treats the potential beneficiary group as a homogenous class. In reality, as critics argue, rarely does a group turn out to be a homogenous class. Even within an identified disadvantaged group, families are often found to be placed poles apart in terms of access to material as well as symbolic resources. Therefore, group-based affirmative action policies are seen as benefiting relatively advantaged families from the beneficiary group. An inevitable consequence is widening intra-group inequality. This, in a way, goes against the very purpose of affirmative action, which is, achieving greater equality in society.

Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in educational institutions, public employment, and legislative bodies is constitutionally mandated. These two historically disadvantaged categories consist of a large number of subgroups of different ethnic origins, living in different spatialities and social relations. The outcomes of the reservation policy have generated discontent and dissension within. It has been asserted that the benefits of the reservation have accrued to a few subgroups within SCs/STs. This has led to the demand for a more equitable distribution of benefits by creating sub-classification within SCs/STs based on degrees of disadvantage and deprivation.

This demand has also reached the Supreme Court. In 2004, a five-member Bench of the Supreme Court (in *E.V Chinnaih vs State of Andhra Pradesh*) affirmed SCs/STs as a homogenous class and, ruled against sub-classifications within these umbrella categories, horizontally or vertically. However, in a landmark judgment on August 1, 2024, the apex court allowed sub-classification and paved the way for sub-quotas within the SC/ST quota. While the Court has endorsed the existence of socio-economic differentials within SCs and STs and the idea of substantive equality over nominal equality, little analysis is available to get a sense of the extent of inequalities characterising these categories. This is even though India's population census collects and duly publishes data on socio-economic indicators for individual sub-groups within SCs and STs.

Here, we highlight socio-economic differentials within SCs/STs based on data from the 2011 population census. Owing to the space constraints, our analysis is confined to a few large States. Because the number of sub-groups comprising SCs and STs is too large in these States, we pick up two numerically important sub-groups (one being well-off and the other relatively deprived) to reflect the extent of socio-economic disparities.

Census data show that different sub-groups continue to have uneven exposure to urbanisation. Across States, while some sub-groups are marked by a decent level of urbanisation, others are overwhelmingly rural-based. Differential urban exposure shows a high correlation with opportunities for life chances. Invariably, sub-groups with higher urbanisation demonstrate higher levels of educational attainment and lower level placement in precarious forms of employment.

Among SCs, for example, **(Table 1)**, Musahars in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh seem to be the most disadvantaged. Fewer members among them are likely to attain a high school degree. The number of those with a college degree is negligible. In contrast, Pasis in Bihar and Chamars in Uttar Pradesh are only a little way off the State average. In Maharashtra, sub-groups, such as Bhambis and Mangs, occupy disparate levels of educational and occupational attainment, with the former being much better off compared with the latter. Likewise, Chamars in Punjab are ahead of Mazhabis in terms of access to education and exposure to urbanisation. The proportions of matriculates and graduates among the former were 1.5 times higher than the latter. In West Bengal, Namsudras and Bagdis stand poles apart in terms of urbanisation, educational attainment, and sources of livelihood.

Socio-economic differentials among STs are as pronounced as among SCs **(Table 2)**. In Chhattisgarh, for instance, the Halba tribes are not only far more urbanised than and educationally ahead of the Baiga tribes but also have fewer members working as agricultural labourers when compared with the latter. Similar is the case between the Oraon and Mal Paharia tribes in Jharkhand. Oraons are also the most educated tribes in the neighbouring State of Odisha and far ahead of Bhumia – one of the tribes with minimal access to education. In Rajasthan, the Meenas are well known as the most educated and economically advanced tribal group. The developmental processes seem to have completely bypassed the Garasias, one of the largest tribal sub-groups of the State.

The above analysis brings into sharp focus the persistence of socio-economic disparities. It suggests that different sub-groups within SCs and STs are at disparate levels of socio-economic development. Given this, it is also not difficult to infer who might have most benefited from the undifferentiated reservation regime. The course to be taken by the political class is not known, but sub-classification within SC/ST and the creation of sub-quotas can be reasonably expected to result in a more equitable distribution of benefits of reservation.

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Inter-group variations

The data for the tables were sourced from Census 2011

Column key 1: % urban population, 2: % of people with matriculate education (aged >=15 years), 3: % graduate (aged >=20 years), 4: % agri-labourer (% of main workers aged >=15 years). SGs refer to sub-groups

Table 1: Socio-economic differentials within SCs by State (2011)

State/SGs	1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	**33.4**	**13.75**	**10.2**	**39.9**
All SCs	21.8	12.4	6.7	64.3
SG 1: Adi Dravida	15.8	16	6.4	65.8
SG2: Bayagara	6	10.5	3.4	55.5
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.37	0.65	0.53	0.85
2. Bihar	**14**	**11.7**	**5.8**	**44.5**
All SCs	7.4	6.2	2	69.4
SG 1: Pasi	18.9	9.4	4.4	46.9
SG 2: Musahar	3.4	0.9	0.1	87.5
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.17	0.1	0.02	1.86
3. Maharashtra	**45.2**	**16.4**	**12**	**25.2**
All SCs	43.5	14.8	8.2	44.5
SG 1: Bhambi etc.	54.4	16.3	10.4	2.6
SG 2: Mang	36.3	11.3	3.7	57.3
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.66	0.69	0.35	22.2
4. Punjab	**37.4**	**20.2**	**9.9**	**13.7**
All SCs	26.7	13.9	3	31.9
SG 1: Chamar	30.1	17.8	5	22.6
SG 2: Mazhabi	18.2	12.7	3	48.9
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.6	0.71	0.6	2.16
5. Uttar Pradesh	**22.2**	**11.8**	**9.4**	**21.7**
All SCs	13.7	8.6	4.6	38
SG 1: Chamar	13.3	9.5	5.3	38.7
SG 2: Musahar	3	1.1	0.2	52.4
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.22	0.11	0.03	1.3
6. West Bengal	**30.5**	**8.1**	**8.4**	**22.8**
All SCs	20.4	5.5	3.5	35.2
SG 1: Namasudra	31.3	7.6	5.9	22.1
SG 2: Bagdi, Duley	10.3	2.9	1	58.3
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.32	0.38	0.16	2.6

Table 2: Socio-economic differentials within STs by State (2011)

State/SGs	1	2	3	4
1. Chhattisgarh	**23.2**	**9.4**	**6.9**	**30.3**
All STs	7.6	5.6	2.5	31.4
SG 1: Halba	13.4	9.2	4.6	22.2
SG 2: Baiga	1.8	1.4	0.2	37.2
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.13	0.15	0.04	1.67
2. Jharkhand	**24**	**11.7**	**7.4**	**18.4**
All STs	8.9	8	3.1	22.3
SG 1: Oraon	14.2	11.8	6.7	15.6
SG 2: Mal Paharia	1.1	2	0.3	41.1
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.07	0.16	0.04	2.63
3. Odisha	**16.6**	**10.8**	**6.9**	**22.5**
All STs	6.2	4.9	1.2	32.3
SG 1: Oraon etc.	17.3	11.5	3.1	14.8
SG 2: Bhumia	2.1	1.2	0.2	27.7
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.12	0.1	0.06	1.87
4. Rajasthan	**24.8**	**10.3**	**8.1**	**10.3**
All STs	5.9	5.9	4.3	14.1
SG 1: Meena	7.1	8.5	7.2	8.2
SG 2: Garasia (excluding Rajput Garasia)	1.1	1.5	0.5	26.8
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.15	0.17	0.07	3.2
5. West Bengal	**30.5**	**8.1**	**8.4**	**22.8**
All STs	8.3	4.1	2	42.2
SG 1: Bhutia	39	10.7	11.6	6.3
SG 2: Bhumij	3.9	3.4	1.2	61.4
Ratio (SG 2/SG 1)	0.1	0.31	0.1	9.7

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 13, 1974

Life term for food adulteration: Bill introduced

New Delhi, August 12: The Bill to inflict penalties including life imprisonment for food adulteration offences was introduced in the Rajya Sabha to-day by the Health Minister, Dr. Karan Singh.

"The Prevention of Food Adulteration (amendment) Bill, 1974" seeks to make food adulteration offences as "cognizable and non-bailable". The Bill seeks to plug loopholes and provide for more stringent and effective measures to curb the adulteration menace, which had "made a heavy dent in the already low nutritional standards."

An adulterator, according to the Bill, would be liable to be imprisoned for a minimum of three years extending up to life imprisonment and asked to pay a minimum fine of Rs. 5,000.

The Bill also seeks to provide for representation for consumers' interests in the Central Committee for Food Standards and in the Central Food Laboratory.

Under the Bill, if any colouring matter other than that prescribed or not within the prescribed limits of variability was used, the food article would be declared as adulterated. The Bill seeks to add to the definition of food under the parent Act "any other article which the Central Government, having regard to its character, use or composition, declares by notification in the official gazette, as food for the purposes of this Act".

In the parent Act "food" meant an article used as food or drink for human consumption other than drugs and water and included those used in the composition or preparation of human food and flavouring matter or condiments. The Bill also seeks to appoint the "local (health) authority" in relation to local areas to be in charge of health administration. Under the parent Act, there was a provision for appointment of "food (health) authority" meaning the Director of Health Services or the Chief Officer in charge of health administration.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 13, 1924

Submarine K. 26.

London, August 12: The largest submarine K. 26 has returned to Portsmouth after a record submarine voyage of twenty thousand miles to Singapore unaccompanied by a parent ship.

From Page One

SEBI row: BJP rejects calls for JPC probe

However, investors had seen through the plot as the markets remained stable, former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad told a press conference.

Mr. Prasad said billionaire George Soros is an investor in Hindenburg and is known to be "running propaganda against the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

"It is obvious that Hindenburg is in the same game... the pathological hatred of the Congress leadership against the Prime Minister has developed into a hatred against India itself," Mr. Prasad said, adding that the report was "fictitious".

Stepping up its attack on the Modi government over the latest Hindenburg report, the Congress threatened to launch a nationwide protest if its demand for a JPC was not accepted. The principal Opposition party urged the Supreme Court to transfer the probe against the Adani group to the Central Bureau of Investigation or a Special Investigation Team "given the likelihood that SEBI is compromised".

"The SEBI chairperson, responsible for regulating the stock market, ensuring its credibility and taking action against scams, allegedly has investments in shell companies (associated with Adani Group). How does the government view this news? It's astonishing that despite such a serious allegation, Ms. Buch remains in the same position," Congress general secretary (organisation), K. C. Venugopal said in Thiruvananthapuram.

"The Prime Minister's silence on the matter amounts to destruction of credibility," he added.

On Saturday, Hindenburg Research had alleged that Ms. Buch and her husband had undisclosed investments in obscure offshore funds in Bermuda and Mauritius, the same entities allegedly used by Vinod Adani – the elder brother of Adani group chairman Gautam Adani – to round-trip funds and inflate stock prices.

Mr. Venugopal asked "why is the government afraid of a JPC"?

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh said that on March 3, 2023, the Supreme Court had directed SEBI to "expeditiously conclude the investigation" into allegations of stock manipulation and accounting fraud against the Adani Group within two months. Now, 18 months later, SEBI has revealed that a critical investigation, likely regarding whether Adani violated Rule 19A relating to minimum public shareholding, remains incomplete, he added. "The fact is that SEBI's seeming inability to close two of its 24 investigations delayed the publication of its findings for over a year. This delay conveniently allowed the Prime Minister to navigate an entire general election without addressing his role in facilitating his close friend's illicit activities," Mr. Ramesh said.

Retail inflation slips to 59-month low

Inflation faced by urban consumers dropped to just under 3% in July, from 4.4% in June, while rural consumers experienced a relatively higher price rise of 4.1%, down from 5.7% in June. Food price rise was also higher in rural India at 5.9% compared with 4.6% in urban areas. In June, rural food inflation was lower at 9.15% while urban food prices rose to 9.6%.

July's inflation pace is not only the slowest recorded since September 2019, but also marks the first time since then that it has dropped below the 4% median target pursued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its monetary policy framework. With the RBI raising its inflation projection for the July to September quarter to 4.4% at its latest monetary policy review last week, price rise is expected to regain momentum over this month and next.

Vegetables inflation recorded the biggest drop in sequential terms, falling to 6.8% in July from 29.3% in June. While the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry emphasised that July clocked a decline in all groups of the Consumer Price Index , with a significant dip in vegetables, fruits and spices sub-groups, economists flagged that some pain points remain.

Inflation in 'personal care and effects' accelerated to 8.44% from 8.2% in June. Pulses inflation also remained more than 10% for the 14th straight month, at 14.77%, while meat, fish and eggs, recorded high upticks of 6% and 6.8%, respectively.

"Cereals' inflation has remained more than 8%, which is a concern for both government and RBI. The favourable base effect on vegetable inflation will remain only till August," said Paras Jasrai, senior economic analyst at India Ratings and Research.

Among the 22 States for which inflation rates are released, seven recorded higher inflation than the national average, including Bihar (5.9%), Assam (5.1%), and Odisha (4.8%). Seven of the other 15 States saw inflation of 3% or lower, with Jharkhand seeing the lowest inflation of 1.7%, followed by Delhi at 2.1%, Chhatisgarh at 2.2% .

Seven killed in stampede at temple in Bihar's Jehanabad

Residents blame administration for not taking precautionary measures to tackle the huge crowd at temple; official says cause of stampede was a clash between a flower seller and some devotees

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Seven devotees, three of them women, were killed and 16 injured in a stampede at the Baba Siddheshwarnath temple located atop a hillock in Jehanabad district of central Bihar on Monday.

Of the 16 injured, 10 were discharged from a government hospital after receiving primary medical attention, while three persons continue to receive treatment there. Three others have been sent to the Anugrah Narayan Medical College and Hospital in Gaya.

The death toll could mount further, local residents said. They blamed the administration for not taking precautionary measures to tackle the huge crowd that had gathered at the temple.

Some volunteers, along with police personnel deputed at the temple, allegedly used batons to control the crowd, which led to the stampede, witnesses told presspersons.

Tragic incident: Family members of the victims mourn after a stampede at the Baba Siddheshwarnath temple in Jehanabad district of Bihar on Monday. PTI

"The cause of the stampede was a clash between a flower seller and some devotee. The flower seller is absconding after the incident. There was no baton charge by those deployed for the management of the crowd at the temple," Jehanabad District Magistrate Alankrita Pandey said.

There was a huge rush of devotees as it was the fourth Monday of the holy month of Shravan. "After midnight on August 11, the devotees rushed towards the temple located on the hillock to offer puja to Lord Shiva and the stampede followed," Hareram Sharma, 36, a resident of Jehanabad town, said, adding that he too had gone to offer prayers but escaped unhurt due to "Baba's (Lord Shiva's) blessings".

"There was total mismanagement at the temple and no system for crowd management except for the deployment of a few policemen and volunteers," Mr. Sharma said.

Expressing grief over the incident, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced ex gratia assistance of ₹4 lakh to the kin of each deceased person, and directed officials to ensure proper treatment for the injured.

Known as "Magadh's Baidyanath Dham" in a reference to the famous Shiva temple at Deoghar in Jharkhand, which is celebrated as one of the 12 sacred Jyotirlingas, the Baba Siddheshwarnath temple was built in the seventh century under the Gupta reign.

Legends attribute the construction of the temple to king Bana, father-in-law of king Jarasandha of ancient Rajgriha (Rajgir), which is located about 30 km from Jehanabad.

Anti-terror operations continue in Kishtwar, Anantnag, Udhampur

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Anti-terror operations against three groups of highly trained terrorists in Udhampur, Kishtwar, and Anantnag districts of Jammu and Kashmir failed to make headway for the third day on Monday.

The search-and-cordon operation, which started on August 10 in the Ahlan Gagarmandu area of Anantnag district, continued for the third day. Additional deployments were made to replenish the team involved in the combing operation against three or four terrorists hiding in a forest area which falls between the Chenab Valley and the Kashmir Valley.

Dense forest

Officials said the hiding terrorists were using the topography to their advantage. The forest belt has dense green cover, steep slopes, and natural caves. The operation is going on at an altitude of 10,000 feet, with limited mobilisation of security personnel owing to lack of roads. Official sources said the past three days witnessed a couple of contacts with the terrorists.

The hiding terrorists were using the topography to their advantage, said the officials.

Two soldiers and one civilian were killed in the initial exchange of fire between the terrorists and security forces.

The Kishtwar operation in the Chenab Valley, which saw a gunfight on August 11, has failed to track down the terrorists. An alert has been sounded in Kishtwar, and security forces are preparing to increase patrols in the upper reaches to cut off mobility of the terrorist groups.

No terrorist could be traced in Basantgarh of Udhampur on Monday. The area witnessed two standoffs between security forces and terrorists on August 6 and August 11. On both occasions, the terrorists managed to flee after a brief exchange of fire.

Court gives CBI time till August 27 in Kejriwal case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Monday granted the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) 15 days to obtain the requisite sanctions to prosecute Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Durgesh Pathak in a corruption case pertaining to the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy 2021-22 scam.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court allowed the Central agency time till August 27 to secure necessary sanctions in the case. The court's order came after the agency submitted that it is yet to receive the sanction from the authorities concerned.

The CBI had earlier secured sanctions to investigate them in the case. In the final chargesheet filed in the matter, the agency had termed Mr. Kejriwal as the "mastermind" of the alleged excise policy scam.

The court last week had extended the judicial custody of Mr. Kejriwal.

20 Sikhs from Afghanistan granted citizenship certificate under CAA

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Twenty Sikhs from Afghanistan, part of the first group of Afghan Sikhs who had applied for citizenship online nearly 100 days ago, have been accorded citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019 in the past one week in New Delhi.

Some of the applicants came way back in 1997 but continued to live here on a long-term visa. Additionally, there are around 400 Afghan Sikhs whose applications under the Citizenship Act, 1955 have been pending since 2010, with many applicants having entered India in 1992 after the Leftist government in Afghanistan fell.

In 2009, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government had significantly eased long-term visa norms for Hindus and Sikhs from Pakistan and Afghanistan enabling them to apply for citizenship under the 1955 Act as many lost their passports or the document expired in transit.

Major relief: Many Sikhs have now petitioned the Centre to migrate their applications from the 1955 Act to the CAA. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

LTVs are a precursor to citizenship.

Many Sikhs have now petitioned the Union Home Ministry to migrate their applications from the 1955 Act to the CAA, as, under the latter, the chances of getting citizenship are better.

Fateh Singh, general secretary of the Khalsa Diwan Welfare Society in New Delhi, said he had come to India in 1992 but continues to live here on an LTV, which is renewed every two years. Mr. Singh set up a camp at a gurdwara at Mahabir Nagar in west Delhi to help Sikh migrants file applications under the CAA. "We opened the camp in April after the CAA Rules were notified on March 11. Over 400 Afghan Sikhs applied through this camp and within 100 days around 20 of them have got their citizenship certificates. Now they can apply for an Indian passport," Mr. Singh said.

Mr. Singh said he continued to live as a refugee as his application under the 1955 Act is pending with the Home Ministry, which is clearing the applications under the CAA.

"Under the parent Act, multiple authorities, including the State government officials, were involved. However, under the CAA, the role of the State government has been obliterated, so the applications are processed quickly," he said.

Tarlok Singh, 48, who came to India in 2007, said while three members of his family are Indian citizens now under the CAA, his two minor sons, 11 and 13, will have to await a little longer.

Narrating the circumstances under which he migrated to India, he said, "I used to run a perfume shop in Afghanistan. One day someone had a fight with me over ₹100. I was dragged to the police station three times. While several Afghan Muslims stood by me, saying it was not my fault. However, I decided to come to India for the safety of my family."

Mr. Tarlok said he had previously never applied for Indian citizenship and used to assist a relative at a hosiery shop in central New Delhi's Karol Bagh market for a living. "We are very happy. I got the citizenship certificate on August 9," he said.

Indian Coast Guard beefs up maritime surveillance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Considering the recent political events in Bangladesh and the emerging situation there, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has positioned operational units for robust surveillance in the region and to thwart any attempts of illegal migration through sea routes, it said on Monday.

"Surface surveillance has been enhanced along the Indo-Bangladesh International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) by Offshore Patrol Vessels and Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs). Layered surface surveillance has been instituted by additional FPVs. All units at sea have been advised to monitor/board all fishing boats and undertake positive identification of Indian fishermen," the ICG said in a statement.

Sea-air coordinated aerial surveillance has been augmented along the IMBL by Coast Guard aircraft from Kolkata and Bhubaneswar especially during dawn and dusk hours to track scooting contacts, if any, it stated. Additional assets are also kept on standby at Paradip and Haldia for immediate deployment, if any subversive activity is reported. "Electronic surveillance has been promptly maintained for all close coast transferring contacts and interrogated," the statement said.

The ICG said necessary coordination has been maintained with agencies and stakeholders to prevent any ingress through possible infiltration and landing points. "So far, no instances of infiltration or any such activity have been reported on the maritime front," it said adding that enhanced surveillance measures will be maintained in the area until the situation improves and stabilises.

The Border Security Force has thwarted several attempts by Bangladeshi citizens attempting to cross the border.

Manipur CM calls for survey to reorganise districts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Monday called for a State-wide survey to reorganise district boundaries.

Criticising the way some of the districts in the State were created, he accused past governments of drawing boundaries that served their "political interests" and not administrative convenience.

'Political aspirations'

This comes even as the ethnic conflict between the valley-based Meitei people and the hills-based Scheduled Tribe Kuki-Zo-Hmar people has continued for over a year now, killing over 220 people, injuring thousands, and internally displacing tens of thousands.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said Naga residents of Churachandpur claimed they were not receiving essential services. @NBIRENSINGH/X

The Chief Minister was speaking in the Assembly on Monday, addressing concerns raised by Naga People's Front legislator Leishiyo Keishing, who pointed out that the formation of the Kangpokpi district in 2016 had affected the political aspirations and other opportunities of many Tangkhul and Rongmei Nagas.

Later in the day, Sagolband MLA Rajkumar Imo Singh said the government was "contemplating fresh demarcation" of districts for "actual and better administrative reasons".

In his address to the Assembly, the Chief Minister acknowledged complaints of some villages being incorrectly assigned to new districts and said the State-wide survey should involve village authorities, community leaders, and legislators. Mr. Singh added that there were also calls for the rollback of some newly created districts.

Speaking on the concerns raised by Mr. Keishing, Mr. Singh said that several Naga residents of Churachandpur and Kangpokpi districts had met him recently, claiming that they were not receiving essential services, commodities, and opportunities in their districts and that they were being "illegally taxed".

The Chief Minister claimed that all of these issues had come up because the new districts never took care of the needs of local communities.

Mr. Singh also criticised certain communities, saying it was "most unfortunate and detrimental to peace and harmony" that these communities viewed district boundaries through an ethnic lens.

In 2016, the erstwhile Congress government led by Ibobi Singh had created seven new districts. While the districts of Kangpokpi and Tengnoupal were carved out of Senapati and Chandel districts, respectively, Pherzawl and Jiribam were carved out of Churachandpur and Imphal East districts, respectively.

(With PTI inputs)

Mamata gives police seven days to crack doctor's murder case

Will transfer case to CBI if there is no progress within the deadline, says Chief Minister after visiting kin of victim; students reject her offer and continue protests even as parties target State govt. and urge it to take strict action and ensure justice

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

As protests continued to rage over the rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital here, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday set a seven-day deadline for the the police to make progress in the case, failing which she would hand it over to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

"I want the police to arrest the culprits as soon as possible. If by Sunday, they are unable to crack the case, then I will hand over the investigation to the CBI... because insiders may be involved," Ms. Banerjee said.

The Chief Minister made the announcement after meeting the family members of the victim who was found dead in a seminar room of the State-run hospital on Friday.

Ms. Banerjee said that even the family members alleged the possibility of an outsider being involved. "I am surprised as to how the incident occurred – nurses were there, the security personnel were there," she added.

Seeking justice: Doctors and medical staff display placards as they protest in New Delhi on Monday against the murder of a young doctor in Kolkata. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

The Chief Minister said that all the people who were in positions of responsibility – like the principal and medical superintendent of the hospital and the police officer in charge of security – have been removed from their respective positions.

Earlier in the day, the Principal of the medical college and hospital, Sandip Ghosh, resigned from the post.

The Kolkata Police on Saturday arrested a civic police volunteer in connection with the crime. The accused was allegedly seen in CCTV footage near the crime scene. Signs of sexual assault have emerged from the post-mortem exam.

The junior doctors protesting against the crime rejected the Chief Minister's offer and said that they would keep up the demonstrations. The Federation of Resident Doctors' Association of India (FORDA) has endorsed the strike. A two-member team of the National Commission for Women (NCW) arrived in Kolkata and visited the State police headquarters to probe the incident.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra described the incident as heartbreaking. "Safety of women at the workplace is a big issue in the country and concrete efforts are needed for this. I appeal to the State government to take immediate and strict action in this case and ensure justice to the victim's family and fellow doctors," she said.

BJP leader Amit Malviya alleged that the underlying implication of this deadline was that she required more time to obfuscate the situation, protect the influential individuals and their kin involved in the rape and murder, intimidate the victim's family. "She will subsequently transfer a compromised case to the CBI, blame them and mask her own administrative failings," he added.

I&B Ministry to release fresh draft Broadcasting Bill after detailed dialogue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It has extended the time for receiving feedback on the draft placed in public domain till Oct. 15

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on Monday extended the time for receiving feedback on the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill till October 15, stating that a fresh draft would be published after detailed consultations with the stakeholders.

The draft Bill was placed in the public domain on November 10, 2023, along with the explanatory notes seeking comments from the stakeholders and the general public. "In response, multiple recommendations/ comments/ suggestions were received, including from various Associations," said the Ministry in a post on social media platform X.

The Ministry said it was holding a series of consultations with the stakeholders on the draft Bill.

Amid reports on the withdrawal of the draft Bill, Apar Gupta, lawyer and cofounder of the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), on Monday said via an X post: "I would like to thank everyone who reported, worked and educated others on its dangerous provisions. This is a broad coalition of diverse individuals, groups and organisations who have stood up and asked the government for transparency and contested political censorship."

He said: "Hope that the MIB practises the Pre-Legislative Consultation Process (PLCP) in letter and spirit for future legal proposals. I hope to continue providing a political economy framing and a detailed legal analysis that advances policy and public deliberation."

Earlier, the IFF had criticised the "secret" changes to the draft Bill, which expanded regulatory requirements on online news and entertainment media. The IFF had reiterated the concerns raised by civil society that the Bill would lead to further censorship implications for online platforms.

The government has been working on the draft Bill which is aimed at replacing the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

BJP, RSS go into huddle over question of next BJP chief, fate of Bangladeshi Hindus

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

RSS has been clear that next BJP chief should be elected in active consultation with the Sangh

The question of who will be the next BJP president and the timing of the election to that post is still hanging fire, with the BJP and the RSS getting into a huddle before the formal *samanvay* (coordination) meeting of Sangh Parivar affiliates to be held in Palakkad at the end of this month.

On Sunday evening, a marathon meeting, lasting up to five hours, was held at Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's residence. RSS second-in-command Dattatreya Hosabele and joint general secretary Arun Kumar were present, along with Mr. Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and Health Minister and BJP chief J.P. Nadda.

According to top sources, the meeting took up the question of the next BJP chief as well as the situation on the safety of minority Hindus in Bangladesh.

"There are two schools of thought with regard to the next BJP president - one, that a working president, who will ultimately be the only candidate, be named early; another school is batting for the Maharashtra, Haryana and Jharkhand polls to be over for any new working president to be announced," said the source. There was no clarity on who prevailed during this meeting.

The RSS has been clear that the next BJP president is to be elected in active consultation with it, unlike in the past, while the BJP is playing for time. "The results of the Lok Sabha polls have convinced the RSS that someone who will be strong enough to handle the organisation needs to be in place, while the BJP high command wants the seamless coordination between it and the president's office as before," the source said.

With regard to the safety of Bangladeshi Hindus, the government has put in place a committee to monitor the situation on the India-Bangladesh border, with several States in the northeast quite firm that they do not want a deluge of refugees in their States.

For the RSS, the frequent meetings for "coordination" are its strongest signal yet that unlike in the past it wants an active role in the way the BJP is run.

Display date, time stamp on visuals of disasters: govt. to TV channels

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Monday issued an advisory to private television channels and instructed them to ensure that the visuals of disasters, natural calamity, or major accidents prominently display the date and time stamp on the top of the footage.

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry said it had noticed that television channels gave continuous coverage to such disasters/calamities/accidents running over several days, but repeatedly showed footage from the day of the incident or some previous footage, "not necessarily reflecting the real-time ground situation which leads to unnecessary confusion and potential panic among viewers".

'To inform viewers'

The Union I&B Ministry said: "Therefore, to avoid any misunderstanding among viewers, all private television channels are hereby advised to ensure that visuals of disasters/natural calamity/major accidents should prominently display date and time stamp on the top of the footage. This will ensure viewers are suitably informed about the exact date of the footage being telecast and the fact that it does not necessarily reflect the real-time position at the location of the incident."

The television channels have also been advised to ensure adherence to the programme code while telecasting such incidents.

Centre takes a guarded position on Supreme Court's sub-quota verdict

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Amid widespread opposition to the view of a few judges on the Constitution Bench on Scheduled Caste sub-categorisation that the "creamy layer" among these castes should be excluded from reservation, the Centre remains silent on the power granted to the States by the Supreme Court to sub-classify the community for quota.

Union Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar on Monday dodged repeated questions about the Centre's position on the matter. Instead, Dr. Kumar insisted the government had taken a strong position against introducing the "creamy layer".

When pressed further, the Minister said: "This part about the creamy layer is what has been decided."

The Centre's silence on sub-classification after the judgment stands in contrast to the strong position it had taken while arguing the case before the Supreme Court in February. At the time, it argued that the Centre and the States should be allowed to sub-classify the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to "further the ideals of social justice".

Virendra Kumar

About two weeks after the judgment was delivered on August 1, the Centre has now arrived at an understanding that the verdict "clearly" applies to the State governments, according to sources aware of the deliberations. The order allows the States to sub-classify and has laid down the conditions under which they may exercise this power, one of them said.

While the Bench ruled in a 6:1 majority that the State governments are permitted to sub-classify the Scheduled Caste list, its judgment first laid down that this is a permissible exercise, different from including or excluding communities on the list.

Meanwhile, a high-level government panel formed ahead of the Lok Sabha election to engage with communities demanding sub-categorisation has not met since the new government was formed on June 9, *The Hindu* has learnt.

The last meeting of the committee was held before the Lok Sabha election were announced, during which representatives of the Madiga community in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana met officials and pleaded their case.

This committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary was constituted in January, weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised at an election rally in Telangana to examine issues faced by the Madiga community in getting benefits.

But even as the "creamy layer" observations of judges dominates the political rhetoric on the judgment, the central leaderships of neither the ruling party nor the principal Opposition party have come out with a detailed position on the core issue of sub-categorisation.

While anger against the suggestion of a "creamy layer" was nearly unanimous among Dalit voices across the political spectrum in the country, the issue of sub-quotas continues to create a sharp divide within these communities.

Restore nod for coverage inside House: press body

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Working News Cameramen's Association has written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla urging him to restore the permission for coverage of developments inside the Parliament complex.

It said a large number of photojournalists had been rendered jobless by the restrictions. It said most of these had been imposed during the pandemic.

"Now that conditions have normalised, we hope that the coverage passes for photojournalists is restored completely," it said.

KERALA IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
Thiruvananthapuram

NOTICE INVITING EoI

KIIDC, a PSU under Govt of Kerala invites **Expression of Interest (EoI) for the Submission of Proposals for Developing Irrigation Tourism Project at Kolapra Island, Thodupuzha, Idukki District** from Local Self-Government Organisations/Institutions or Other Government Organisations/Institutions or Private Organisations/Institutions or Individuals or Societies. Detailed EoI along with formats and timelines is uploaded in the KIIDC website: http://kiidc.kerala.gov.in

Managing Director

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER (MECH.),
ERECTION AND MAINTENANCE,
CENTRAL WORKSHOP, RASULGARH,BHUBANESWAR -751010 (ODISHA)
Tel- 0674: 2580896, E-mail: gmerectionocc@gmail.com
(GSTIN-21AAACO2571K2ZM)

"e" - Tender Notice No. 15 /OCCL/2024-25 (on-line)

Type of work : "Fitting of 1st. stage embedded parts for both radial gates & stoplogs for 12 sets , erection of anchorage system for 06 Nos of radial gates (05 nos of intermediate piers), erection & testing of pulley supporting girders for 130T rope drum hoist of radial gates for 12 sets, erection & testing of anchor bars for gear box supporting frame for 130T rope drum hoist for 12 sets and concreting of 2nd stage embedded parts for radial gates and stoplog, pertaining to Kanupur Gate Erection Project, Basudevpur, Keonjhar as per drawings, scope of work and instruction of engineer-in-charge"
Total No. of work : 01(one).
Period of completion : 180 (One hundred eighty) days.

Tendering Officer	Bid Identification No.	Cost of Tender document (Including GST) through on-line transfer system	Availability of Tender (On-line)	Submission of Bid (On-line)
General Manager (Mech.), Erection and Maintenance, OCC Ltd., Central Workshop, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar	OCCL-G.M./ E&M/ 02/2024-25	Rs.11,800/- (Non-refundable)	13.08.2024 10.00 AM to 27.08.2024 5.00 PM	13.08.2024 10.00 AM to 27.08.2024 5.00 PM

Date of opening of the Technical Bid : 28.08.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
Amendment/corrigendum/cancellation, if any shall be posted on-line only.
General Manager (Mech.),
Erection and Maintenance, OCC Ltd., Bhubaneswar
CAD-826 OIPR-34163/11/0013/2425

K-DISC
Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council
Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC)
India Heights, Govt. Women's College Road, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram
Expression of Interest (EOI)
EOI Id: 2024_KDIC_684392_1
EOI reference no: 1990_2024_KDISC_EOI dated 07 Aug 2024
Scope of Work: "Identification of Private Entrepreneurs to establish Job Stations in State of Kerala in association with K-DISC"
Last date for online submission of bids: 29-Aug-2024 05:00 PM
Bid opening: 31-Aug-2024 11:00 AM
For details, please visit website: etenders.kerala.gov.in D3/480/2024/I&PRD

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, R.R. Nagara Zone, BBMP Building, CA No-3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road, Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagar, Bengaluru - 560 060
No: EE/KEN/TEND/05/2024-25 Date: 12.08.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Short Term Tender Notification) (Two Cover System) (Call-1) (Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Comprehensive Development of RCC Drain, Roads and Other Development works in Ward No-26, Doddabidarakallu, Indiranagara and Surrounding Area. **Amount put to tender: ₹.199.74 Lakhs, EMD: ₹.3,00,000/-**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents can be downloaded through kpp portal from **16.08.2024, 4:00** pm. (2) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **23.08.2024** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Pre-Bid meeting on **20.08.2024** at **3:00** pm O/o Chief Engineer, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeswari Nagar Zone, Bengaluru - 98. (4) Last date & Time for Receipt of Tenders on **23.08.2024** upto **4:00** pm. (5) Opening of Bids on **26.08.2024** at **11:00** am.
Sd/- Executive Engineer Kengeri Division

International Institute for Population Sciences
[Deemed to be University]
An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai – 400088.
Contact Details: Tel: 91-22- 42372428
Email: distanceeducation@iipsindia.ac.in Website: www.iipsindia.ac.in

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR DISTANCE PROGRAMME – for the academic session July-August, 2024

The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), an autonomous organization established in 1956 under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, invites applications for admission to the M.A. in Population Studies programme (Distance Mode) for the Academic Year **July-August 2024-2025.**
Last date to submit application offline and online: 20 August 2024
For more details, please visit: www.iipsindia.ac.in
DIRECTOR & SR. PROFESSOR

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VIDYUT SOUDHA :: VIJAYAWADA
NIT No. 610001655
APGENCO invites Online tenders for "Providing of 51 No's security persons (including 03 nos. Watchmen at Jalaput dam) to safeguard the assets of MHE(Jt) Scheme for the period from 01.09.2024 (or from actual date of commencement of the work) to 31.03.2026"
Bid Start date & time: **09.08.2024** at **05:30 PM**.
Bid Submission closing date & time: **23.08.2024** at **3:00 PM**.
For further details visit: **https://etender.apgenco.gov.in** Phone: **(08864-294192)**.
DIPR 3114PP/CL, Dt.12/08/2024 CHIEF ENGINEER (O&M)/LSHES

K-RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)
BENGALURU SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT
Website: **www.kride.in** | Email ID: **gmprocurement@kride.in**
Date: 12/08/2024

e-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: **K-RIDE/BSRP/C2/Track Laying/2024**
Tender ID: 2024_KRIDE_204391_1
PACKAGE – C-2 Track Laying
"Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Ballastless, Ballasted Track, Fastening System and Turnouts in Corridor 2 from Benniganahalli to Chikkabanavara @ Chainage (-) 1413 to Chainage 27029 including Ballasted and Special Tracks in Soladevanahalli Depot".
Last date for submission of bids is **26/09/2024, IST 15:00 Hrs,** for details visit **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app.**
Sd/- **GENERAL MANAGER /Procurement/KRIDE**
DIPR/CP/1397/Zen/2024-25
KridePrm Kride Bsrp kride_bsrp KRIDE,BSRP

INBRIEF

HC grants interim protection from arrest to Puja Khedkar

The Delhi High Court on Monday granted interim protection from arrest to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, who has been accused of fraudulently clearing UPSC examination, till August 21. The court issued notice to the Delhi Police and the UPSC on the anticipatory bail plea filed by Ms. Khedkar. "In the facts of the present case, the court is of the opinion that the petitioner be not arrested till the next date of hearing," the court said, listing the case for further hearing on August 21. The judge also said there was hardly any discussion by the trial court as to why bail sought cannot be granted.

'Some parties campaign that India is unsafe for minorities'

Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday said that a campaign was being run across the globe to project that minorities were not safe in India. He accused Opposition parties of defaming the country using foreign media. Speaking at an event organised by the BJP minority morcha in Delhi, Mr. Rijiu said, "There are six constitutionally recognised minorities but it is just a name that we call them minority... no one in this country is suppressed or oppressed, there is no discrimination against minorities here." He also said that whenever there was tension or disturbance in the neighbouring countries, the people of those places took refuge in India.

SC declines plea against fresh NET examination

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea challenging a decision of the Centre to conduct the University Grants Commission (UGC) National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET) afresh from August 21.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said it did not want to introduce chaos and uncertainty for nine lakh candidates by entertaining the petition filed by 47 persons. The petitioners had challenged the decision of the Ministry of Education to cancel the previous examination held on June 18.

The Ministry had announced its decision based on prima facie indicators found by the Home Ministry's National Cyber Crime Threat Analytics Unit that the integrity of the exam was compromised. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is investigating into the matter.

Noting that two months have passed since the Ministry's decision to conduct a re-examination, the court said any change now would only cause further confusion.

IIT-Madras retains top spot in NIRF ranking for sixth consecutive year

Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru is the top institution under both universities and research categories; IIM-Ahmedabad continued to be the top management institute for the fifth year; AIIMS, New Delhi best place to study medical sciences

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras is the best educational institution in the country for the sixth time since 2019, shows the overall ranking based on parameters identified and defined in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

In the 2024 rankings, released here by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Monday, the IIT-Madras also retained the first position in engineering for the ninth year since 2016. The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru is the top institution under both the universities and research categories, retaining both positions since 2016 and 2021, respectively.

The ranks were given in 16 categories this year, three more than last year. Open universities, skill universities, and State public universities are the three new categories. Mr. Pradhan said the Ministry is considering "sustainability" as a criterion, probably from next year.

While the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad continued to be the top management institute for the fifth consecutive year since 2020, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi is the best place to study medical sciences as it retained the top spot for the seventh consecutive year.

The IIT-Bombay is the best 'innovational institution' followed by the IIT-Madras and IIT-Delhi.

Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi is the best college for pharmacy, while Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Chennai is the best college to pursue dental science.

Colleges from New Delhi remained at the top in the colleges category with Hindu College and Miranda House being the top two. The IIT-Roorkee retained its first position in architecture and planning for the fourth consecutive year. The National Law School of India University, Bengaluru was named the best law school, for the seventh year in a row.

The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi is the best institution to study agriculture and allied sectors, according to the rankings. Anna University, Chennai tops the State public universities category and Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi is the best open university. Symbiosis Skill and Professional University, Pune emerged the best in the skill universities category.

A total of 6,517 institutions participated in the ranking under overall, category-specific or domain-specific rankings. "In all, 10,845 applications for ranking were made by these 6,517 unique institutions under various categories/domains including 2,781 in overall category, 1,463 in engineering and 3,371 in general degree colleges," the Union Education Ministry said in a release, highlighting a "noticeable increase" in institutional participation in the rankings exercise.

Mr. Pradhan said the Centre is considering inclusion of institutions in the neighbouring countries in the ranking to make it more comprehensive. "We should devise mechanisms to bring intangible aspects of education in the rankings framework," he said.

In the overall category ranking, the IISc, Bengaluru and the IIT-Bombay continued to be in the second and third positions.

Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia, both in New Delhi, have secured the second and third ranks in the university category. Jadavpur University, Kolkata and Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune are the second and third best universities under State public universities category.

Top institutions in India

The table shows the top 10 overall institutions and Central and State universities, according to India Rankings, 2024. IIT-Madras secured the top spot in overall category

Ranks	Overall	Top universities	State universities
1	IIT-Madras	IISc, Bengaluru	Anna University
2	IISc, Bengaluru	Jawaharlal Nehru University	Jadavpur University
3	IIT-Bombay	Jamia Millia Islamia	Savitribai Phule University
4	IIT-Delhi	MAHE, Manipal	Calcutta University
5	IIT-Kanpur	Banaras Hindu University	Punjab University
6	IIT-Kharagpur	University of Delhi	Osmania University
7	AIIMS, Delhi	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	Andhra University
8	IIT-Roorkee	Aligarh Muslim University	Bharathiar University
9	IIT-Guwahati	Jadavpur University	Kerala University
10	JNU	Vellore Institute of Technology	CUSAT

NCERT finds shortfalls in functioning of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Lack of transparency in the utilisation of funds, weak infrastructure, shortage of teachers, low salary of teachers, and concerns about safety are among the challenges identified in an evaluation of 254 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

The NCERT has submitted the report to the Education Ministry.

Of the 5,639 approved KGBVs, 4,260 are fully functional, 799 partially functional, and 580 completely non-functional as on June 30, 2023, the report says.

A greater percentage of the non-functional KGBVs are in Bihar (132), Andhra Pradesh (88), Jammu & Kashmir (84), Uttar Pradesh (78), and Odisha (76).

Contract and outsourced employees protest in Vijayawada for minimum time scale and job security on Friday. GIRI KVS

"Non-completion of construction work, land issues with other departments, delays in process of selection of sites, approval of funds, delays in seeking approval of posts of teachers and other staff are some reasons for non-functionality," the report says.

In all, 6,88,013 girls are enrolled from Classes 6 to 12 in 5,035 KGBVs. The study of an indicative sample of 254 KGBVs showed there is a shortage of regular and full-time teaching and administrative staff.

"Retention of staff is a major challenge due to low wages, insecurity of job, remote and isolated locations of KGBVs," the report says.

Of the 5,035 KGBVs, 2,735 are functional schools with hostels, and 2,300 are standalone hostels. Currently, there are KGBV hostels where schooling facility is not available.

Students and parents have said schooling should be provided within hostels for Classes 6 to 12. However, the report disagrees. "It is recommended that slowly and gradually there should be only KGBVs with stand-alone hostels and students must go to nearby State school for studies in inclusive environment," the report recommends.

Around 44% of the teachers said they had less than five years of experience in KGBVs, indicating low retention of teachers. Approximately one-fourth of the teachers have six to 10 years of experience in KGBVs, and another fourth have 10 to 15 years of experience. Only 3% of teachers have more than 15 years of experience in KGBVs, suggesting that the more experienced teachers quit KGBVs to find jobs elsewhere.

Two-thirds of the girls (65.6%) did not respond to the question on safety and security, one-third responded that they are not safe, and less than 1% said they are safe.

'Most security camps in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand set up on tribal properties'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

It is apparent that the real purpose of the camps is to protect and promote corporate interests, the activists said

Most of the security camps set up in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand post 2019 have come up on private or community properties of tribals without their consent and in severe violation of existing laws, according to a citizens' report released here on Monday.

The report, "Security and Insecurity, Bastar Division, Chattisgarh, 2023-24", published after a fact-finding team visited the areas, says the proliferation of paramilitary camps, set up in violation of several laws in Bastar and other Adivasi (tribal) areas, is an "imposition" on local Adivasis.

The government has said that setting up of paramilitary camps is necessary for laying roads, constructing schools, health centres and voting booths, all of which are needed for State services.

The people told the fact-finding team that they are not opposed to roads but would like a say in how and where these roads are being built. "The layout and width of the roads makes it quite clear in many cases that they are meant to facilitate mining operations. On the one hand these camps and roads are being built without people's consent and on the other, as of 2022, 51 mining leases have been granted in the Bastar region, of which only 14 are with the public sector," the report says. It says the situation is similar in Jharkhand's West Singbhum district where at least 30 camps have been set up in the past four years in Saranda and Kolhan forests.

"The peaceful democratic protests against the camps have been ignored or worse suppressed using brutal methods from lathi charge to burning the sites to firing on protesters. It is very apparent that the real purpose of the camps is to protect and promote corporate interests particularly mining interests at the cost of Adivasi lives and constitutional rights," members of the fact-finding team said at a press conference. The activists called for implementation of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act of 2006 and the Forest Rights Act 2006 in letter and spirit.

Take steps to reopen Shambhu border: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday urged Punjab and Haryana to work together towards a phased opening of the long-blockaded Shambhu border.

A Bench led by Justice Surya Kant orally approved the two States' suggestions of names to fill a 'neutral' panel to open negotiations with the agitating farmers camped on the inter-State boundary since February 13.

The court agreed to pass a formal judicial order detailing the terms of reference of the panel.

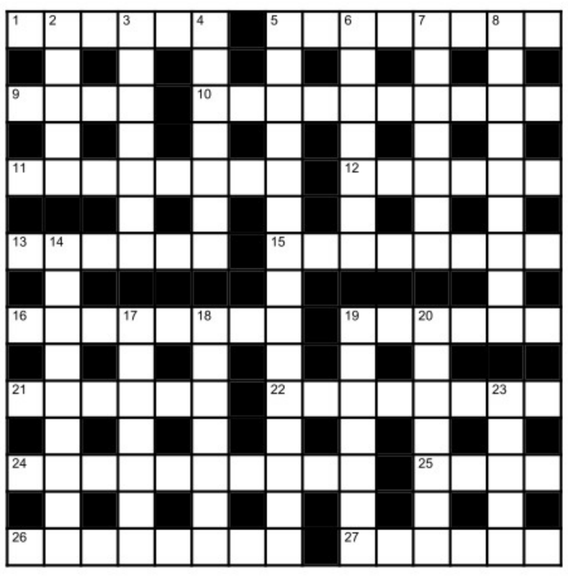
The court said it was essential to at least partially open the main highway lanes to facilitate the movement of medical emergency vehicles, students travelling to and fro their schools, and local commuters.

TH CROSSWORD + 14252

(set by Crescent)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Case of fire enveloping meat served in this way? (6)
5 It can sense and stop, taking care of outside temperature (8)
9 Points in time not entirely clear (4)
10 Benevolent nature spreading its love and energy (10)
11 Closure of service on cutting streetcar cable (8)
12 Perceptions of male ego over generations (6)
13 Out of line, stellar body's tail off course (6)
15 Thousand pounds for undergarments? (8)
16 How partners may walk in Charminar market (3,2,3)
19 Greet old sailor on base checking uniform (6)
21 Rotating section spoils special seats (6)
22 Relaxed face reflecting support (4,4)
24 It's bound to ring in search for a good deal (4,6)
25 Company in India with new image (4)
26 British man has cooked food for horses (4,4)
27 Good show, very sentimental one (6)

Down

2 Fall behind vehicle, ultimately gripping car's rear bumper (5)
3 Marks cut after I fail to pick up properly (7)
4 Ahead of time, holding back, say with anticipation (7)
5 Mule team and exhausted hack go off? Go on! (4,4,2,5)
6 Fur worn by royalty, mostly spreading it around extremities (7)
7 Old Russian cavalryman thus caught returning fire (7)
8 Root faults probed by article in book one after another (2,3,4)
14 Rest rubbish bins to heave litter (9)
17 No rain, pressure shifts geological layer (4,3)
18 Song about desire expressing lover's initial state (7)
19 Row back sharing brief warning (7)
20 Urges in pursuits for pleasure when husband's left (7)
23 Spice divided in two (5)

SUDOKU

	9		2	5				8
2	3				1			
		6	4				1	
			3			9		
	1			2			6	
		9			5			
	6				4	1		
			6				8	7
4				7	8		5	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

W	H	I	T	T	L	E	D		A	B	U	S	E	S
E		M		E		N				L		I		O
N	U	M	E	R	A	T	E		W	I	N	T	E	R
T		U		A		I		U		N		U		E
B	A	R	R	I	S	T	E	R		D	R	A	W	N
Y		E				L		G		S		T		E
			R	I	D	E		E	X	P	R	E	S	S
S		M		N						O		D		S
T	R	A	P	E	Z	E		F	A	T	E			
I		T		A		A		A				F		G
C	H	E	E	R		T	E	D	D	Y	B	E	A	R
K		R		N		S		E		O		I		E
L	O	I	T	E	R		C	O	N	D	E	N	S	E
E		A		S				U		E		T		N
R	E	L	A	T	E		S	T	Y	L	I	S	T	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	4	7	5	8	6	3	2
2	3	7	4	9	6	5	8	1
8	5	6	3	2	1	9	4	7
1	7	3	9	6	4	8	2	5
4	2	9	5	8	7	3	1	6
6	8	5	1	3	2	4	7	9
7	9	8	6	1	3	2	5	4
3	6	1	2	4	5	7	9	8
5	4	2	8	7	9	1	6	3

FAITH

The way out of ignorance

The composition of a song needs the blend of both *sruthi* and *laya*. As an adage says, *Sruthi matha, layam pitha* – a song will be good with both *sruthi* and *laya*, like a child growing up well-groomed by its parents. Equally, prosody and alliteration are essential for a poem. Creating rhythms (*Sandham*) without changing the meanings is tough, and Sri Arunagirinathar deftly handled them in his works. Similarly, none can equal Saint Thiruvalluvar in describing righteousness, and Kambar in writing Kavya.

Lanka Sri Jeyaraj said as long as desires grip people, their knowledge is dominated by ignorance like a vessel covered by rust. The mind will constantly be wavering. Even if one faculty is let loose and uncontrolled, it will drag the other four its way. It is important for a person to realise his mistakes and refine himself. Sri Arunagirinathar repented all his past misdeeds with a contrite heart and became an ascetic with the blessings of Lord Muruga. In his divine composition, Kandhar Anubhoothi, the saint says that his relationship with people changed, and his ignorance got destroyed as soon as he received the blessings from Lord Muruga (*Kuriyai Kuriyadhu Kuritharum Neri*).

Reciting Kandhar Anubhoothi will help a person transform, derive the blessings of Lord Muruga, and reach the realm of His abode.

INBRIEF

Shriram Life policy sales more than doubles in June quarter

Shriram Life Insurance Co. Ltd. said it sold 1.27 lakh individual policies in the June quarter, registering a 131% increase from the same quarter in the year-earlier period. The market share for regular pay retail policies more than doubled to 7.3%, even as net profit contracted 23% to ₹27 crore, the firm said. Growth in individual policies and new business premium demonstrates our products are resonating well with consumers," said MD & CEO Casparus J.H. Kromhout.

Amazon India, Gentari tie up for 10,000 EV fleet by 2025

Amazon India on Monday said that it had formed a strategic partnership with electric mobility firm Gentari for its EV deployment programme as it targets a fleet of 10,000 electric vehicles (EVs) for last-mile deliveries by 2025. Under the collaboration, Gentari Green Mobility Business will procure and deploy EVs for the firm in the next three years besides providing comprehensive fleet management services to the delivery service partners, Amazon India said. PTI

Kinetic Green raises $25 mn from Green Pacific Capital

Electric vehicle manufacturer Kinetic Green said it had secured an investment of $25 million from Greater Pacific Capital (GPC), a global PE firm, and was in talks with other potential investors to secure another $15 million during 2024. The company said it intended to utilise the funds for scaling up production at its Supa facility, marketing and distribution of current products including the recently-launched E-Luna, and towards R&D of new products.

Markets remain calm as Hindenburg report impact 'minimal'

Eight out of 10 Adani group stocks suffer losses estimated at $13.4 billion; loss 'negligible' as latest report is targeted more at SEBI chief, say analysts

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Business as usual: BSE Sensex, which opened 375 points down from Friday's close, closed at a minor loss of 57 points. REUTERS

Contrary to fears of a massive fall owing to the publication of the Hindenburg Research report on Saturday, wherein the U.S. based short-seller accused the SEBI chief of having links with offshore funds used by the Adanis to allegedly jack up their share prices, the benchmark stock indices on Monday remained nearly calm and ended range-bound.

However, Adani group stocks bore the brunt and lost an estimated $13.4 billion in value, as per estimates by Reuters.

The S&P BSE Sensex, which opened 375 points down from Friday's close, gradually recovered lost ground during the day and closed with a minor loss of 57 points, or 0.07%, at 79,649 points.

Similarly, the NSE Nifty-50 index closed with a loss of 20.50 points, or 0.08%, at 24,347.

"Domestic benchmark indices opened lower on Monday due to uncertainty stemming from Hindenburg's allegations against SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband. Despite this uncertainty, Indian markets displayed resilience and settled the day on a flat to negative note," said Hrishikesh Yedve, AVP Technical and Derivatives Research at Asit C. Mehta Investment Interrmediates Ltd.

'Personal attack'

Elaborating on the lukewarm response from the markets, Arun Kejriwal, founder, Kejriwal Research & Investment Services said, "Investors and institutions by now are aware that this [Hindenburg Report] is a continuation of the previous report and this is full of personal attack on a regulator, which has issued a show-cause notice. That is why they have discounted the personal allegations made against the SEBI chief."

He said the losses suffered by Adani group stocks this time were "too negligible" compared with last time when the first Hindenburg report on Adani was released 18 months ago. On Monday, eight out of 10 Adani group stocks closed with losses. These included Adani Enterprises (-1.09%); Adani Ports (-2.02%); Adani Power (-0.65%); Adani Energy Solutions (-3.70%); Adani Total Gas (-4.03%); Adani Wilmar (-4.14%), NDTV (-3.08%), and ACC (-1.55%).

In January 2023, when the U.S. shortseller accused the Adani group of manipulating its share prices by making use of offshore funds, group company stocks had crashed about 10% each. Reportedly, the bonds and shares of Adani Group companies were devalued by more than $104 billion in market value, causing colossal losses to the Indian conglomerate and its founder.

This time, the impact was minimal as the latest report was targeted more at the SEBI chairperson rather than the Adani group per se, analysts said.

June industrial output growth slumps to 5-month low of 4.2%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's industrial output growth slumped to a five-month low of 4.2% in June, with manufacturing output growth dipping to a seven-month low of 2.6%, almost half the previous month's growth, and power generation easing 2.8% from a record high in May as the heat wave receded.

On end-use basis, production growth fell in all six segments compared with May, with consumer non-durables' output shrinking 1.4% from last June - the second such contraction in three months.

The National Statistical Office also upgraded May's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) to 6.2%, the highest in seven months, from its initial estimate of 5.9%.

Mining was the only segment with accelerated growth in June with output rising 10.3% year-on-year (YoY). However, actual production levels were 1.2% lower sequentially.

Within manufacturing, accounting for almost 78% of the IIP, nine of 23 segments reported a contraction this June, including beverages, textiles, leather products and pharmaceuticals. Three sectors reported a double-digit production rise, electrical equipment (28.4%), furniture (16%) and computers and electronics (10.7%).

June's industrial performance fell below most economists' forecasts, despite a beneficial base from last year when output had grown 4%. Consumer durables' production clocked the highest uptick of 8.6%, over a 6.8% contraction last year, while primary goods grew 6.3%.

Capital goods' output growth slowed to 2.4% from 2.9% in May, but June's production levels were the highest so far in 2024-25. Intermediate goods' production growth cooled to 3.1% from 3.9% in May and 5.2% a year ago, while infrastructure and construction goods rose just 4.4% compared with 6.3% in May and 13.3% a year ago.

Overall industrial output rose 5.2% in Q1 FY25, from 4.7% in Q1 FY24, with consumer non-durables being the only segment to report a contraction, with production dropping 0.5% from a 6.8% uptick.

While July's high frequency data suggests mixed trends, rating agency ICRA said it expects IIP growth to be between 2.5% and 4.5%, over a base of 6.2% growth recorded last July. "With a slowdown in government capex and lacklustre rural demand, we anticipate a moderation in GDP growth" in Q1 FY25, said Aditi Nayar, ICRA's chief economist.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	79,649	-0.07
US Dollar	83.97	-0.02
Gold	72,350	-0.13
Brent oil	81.20	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3151.75	-35.80
Adani Ports	1501.40	-32.40
Apollo Hosp	6502.40	-85.45
Asian Paints	3053.20	12.60
Axis Bank	1164.30	21.55
Bajaj Auto	9710.85	-55.10
Bajaj Finserv	1559.00	-1.20
Bajaj Finance	6608.15	-10.05
Bharti Airtel	1458.60	-5.50
BPCL	333.40	0.00
Britannia Ind	5645.75	-94.55
Cipla	1586.25	11.50
Coal India	523.95	-5.85
Divis Lab	4891.00	61.05
Dr Reddys Lab	6886.55	-126.95
Eicher Motors	4808.80	-21.80
Grasim Ind	2571.10	-1.65
HCL Tech	1585.25	-4.70
HDFC Bank	1660.10	9.90
HDFC Life	702.45	0.05
Hero MotoCorp	5311.85	104.65
Hindalco	629.35	6.45
Hind Unilever	2748.70	1.50
ICICI Bank	1172.80	1.20
IndusInd Bank	1350.85	1.05
Infosys	1797.40	26.65
ITC	494.60	-1.30
JSW Steel	917.35	12.25
Kotak Bank	1772.55	2.90
L&T	3571.95	-20.10
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5400.45	26.90
M&M	2717.65	-31.50
Maruti Suzuki	12273.25	49.05
NestleIndia	2473.10	-31.60
NTPC	400.85	-9.80
ONGC	341.30	8.75
PowerGrid Corp	341.15	-4.85
Reliance Ind	2921.25	-27.35
SBI Life	1705.00	-20.10
State Bank	812.60	-11.70
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2976.10	18.00
Sun Pharma	1733.85	-1.45
TataConsumer Product	1170.80	-15.35
Tata Motors	1076.15	8.05
Tata Steel	152.06	0.25
TCS	4195.65	-33.10
Tech Mahindra	1512.50	5.80
Titan	3320.85	-10.85
UltraTech Cement	11302.85	2.50
Wipro	489.05	-2.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 12

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.77	84.09
Euro	91.51	91.86
British Pound	106.88	107.30
Japanese Yen (100)	56.77	56.99
Chinese Yuan	11.67	11.71
Swiss Franc	96.36	96.74
Singapore Dollar	63.23	63.48
Canadian Dollar	61.05	61.29
Malaysian Ringitt	18.79	18.90
Australian Dollar	55.30	55.51

Source:Indian Bank

STT, PIT spikes lift net direct tax receipts to 22.5%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

PIT receipts so far is 64.55% of net tax receipts; corporate taxes' share dropped to 32.1% as of Aug. 11

India's net direct tax collections' growth accelerated to 22.5% by August 11, from 19.54% a month ago, led by a 30% spike in Personal Income Tax (PIT) revenues and a 111% surge in Securities Transaction Tax (STT) receipts, even as corporate tax inflows grew a mere 5.9% from last year.

Data from the Central Board of Direct Taxes showed that gross tax collections rose 24% by Sunday to ₹8.13 lakh crore, while refunds to taxpayers rose 33.5% to a tad over ₹1.2 lakh crore. Net revenues from direct taxes stood at almost ₹6.93 lakh crore, compared with ₹5.66 lakh crore in the year ago period.

Personal income tax receipts so far this year now account for 64.55% of net tax receipts. A rise of about 60.2% from a month ago and 60.8% by the same time last year. Corporate taxes' share has dropped to 32.1% from 36.6% on July 11, and 37.1% as of August 11 last year.

Three M Paper Boards plans 25% capacity expansion

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Three M Paper Boards Ltd., which is into manufacture of recycled paper-based products, said it is planning to expand capacity by 25% to cater to the growing demand of its products from domestic and international markets.

Currently, the company has an installed capacity of 72,000 tonnes per annum (TPA), which would be enhanced, a top company executive said. "We are planning to increase capacity by 25% in two years, which will be met through available funds and internal accruals," MD Rushabh H. Shah said in an interview.

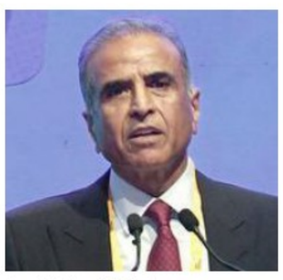
The company recently raised up to ₹40 crore through its SME IPO and is listed on the BSE.

The Coated Duplex Boards produced by the company are made from 100% recycled wastepaper imported from the U.S. and Europe and are fully biodegradable, making them an eco-friendly choice for packaging various FMCG and pharma goods, Mr. Shah said.

The company's recycled paper-based Duplex Board products range from 200 to 500 GSM and are used in various packaging applications across industries such as food and beverage, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and consumer goods.

Bharti Global to acquire 24.5% stake in U.K.'s BT Group

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI



Sunil Bharti Mittal

Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises is set to acquire a 24.5% stake in the U.K.-based-BT Group plc, the company said in a statement.

Bharti Enterprises, which owns Airtel, entered into a binding agreement with Altice UK, to buy 9.9% of its stake in BT Group. The remaining 14.51% will be bought after receiving regulatory clearances, the company said.

"Bharti and British Telecom (BT) have an enduring relationship going back more than two decades, wherein BT owned 21% stake along with 2 board seats in Bharti Airtel Ltd. from 1997-2001. Today marks a significant milestone in Bharti Group's history as we invest in BT, an iconic British company," Sunil Bharti Mittal, Chairperson of Bharti Enterprises, said in the statement.

Deutche Telecom, which owns 12% stake in BT Group, welcomed the acquisition, calling it a positive move for the company, according to its statement. "We have a long and good working relationship with Bharti. So we are looking forward to work together with Bharti in the Board of Directors for the sake of BT shareholders and customers," said CEO Timotheus Höttges.

"This will support BT's plans to build fibre, roll out 5G, and develop services," India's High Commissioner to the U.K. Vikram Doraiswami, said on X. To foster cooperation in critical and emerging technology, the U.K. and India had announced a new technology security initiative on July 25, during U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy's visit to New Delhi.

BHEL gets 1,600 MW thermal power project

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

State-owned BHEL on Monday said it secured a 1,600 MW thermal power project from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).

The unit will be set up in the Jharkhand's Koderma district on an EPC (Engineering, Procurement, and Construction) basis, BHEL said in a statement.

The 2x800 MW supercritical thermal power project is the largest in terms of capacity for DVC, and will be set up adjacent to its existing 2x500 MW units also installed by BHEL earlier, BHEL said in a statement.

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
Ph No.: 08262-220936 e-mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
Short-Term Tender Notice No.: 05/2024-25 Date: 08.08.2024

Short-Term Tender Notice

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru invites Short-Term Tenders through K.P.P.P. related to works of Constructing (Material Recovery Facility) Unit in the limits of Lakya Village of Chikkamagaluru Taluk in Chikkamagaluru District. Maximum Amount of work is Rs. 156.00 lakhs. Details of capability to undertake or of having implemented the works should be attached as per Standard Tender Document KW-4. For the said works the documents downloaded from K.P.P.P. can be filled and uploaded from 08.08.2024 to 16.08.2024 up to 5.30 PM. If possible the Technical Bid will be opened on 19.08.2024 at 11.00 AM. If possible the Financial Bid will be opened on 23.08.2024 at 11.00 AM. If these days are declared as holidays then the next day will be considered. Notice can be read on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in Further details can be obtained by contacting the case worker during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru

DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/24-25/43/441

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
Ph No.: 08262-220936 e-mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
Tender Notice No.:04/2024-25 Date: 06.08.2024

Tender Notice

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru invites Tenders through K.P.P.P. related to works of Chikkamagaluru, Kadur, Koppa, Mudigere, N.R. Pura, Sringeri andTarikereTaluks in Chikkamagaluru District. Maximum Amount of work is Rs. 50.00 lakhs and Minimum Amount is Rs. 5.20 lakhs.Details of capability to undertake or of having implemented the works should be attached as per Standard Tender Document KW-1&2. For the said works the documents downloaded from K.P.P.P. can be filled and uploaded from 07.08.2024 to 21.08.2024 up to 5.30 PM. If possible the Technical Bid will be opened on 23.08.2024 at 5.05 PM. If possible the Financial Bid will be opened on 28.08.2024 at 11.00 AM. If these days are declared as holidays then the next day will be considered. Notice can be read on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.inFurther details can be obtained by contacting the case worker during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru

DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/24-25/40/442

Kolar–Chikkaballapura District Co-Operative Milk Producer's Societies Union Limited..Kolar
[P.B No. 63, N.H-75, Huthur Post, Kolar – 563102. Karnataka]
(Ph.No 08152-282 310/350/331,7760964517,
E-Mail- komulpurchase@yahoo.com)

IFT No. KCMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/ 5372 /2024-25 Date: 08.08.2024

** E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION **

The Kolar-Chikkaballapura Milk Union Limited, Kolar invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the supply of the following materials.

Sl.No	Description of Material	Qty
1.	Supply of Jumbo Bopp Tape to Kolar Dairy and Mega Dairy, Chikkaballapur on ARC Basis	23,000 Rolls
2.	Supply of Liquid Caustic soda Lye through Tanker to Kolar Dairy on ARC Basis	100 MT's
3.	Supply of Liquid Caustic Soda Lye through carboys to Mega Dairy,Chikkaballapur on ARC Basis	85,000 Kg's
4.	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 12 Volts 200 AH Maintenance Free Batteries on Buy Back of similar batteries for 600 KVA Online UPS at UHT Division of Kolar Dairy	156 No's
5.	Purchase of Bulk Transactional SMS to Kolar Dairy	50,00,000 No's

Access to E-tender Documents : 12.08.2024 to 11.09.2024 5.30 PM
Last date for submission : on or before 11.09.2024, 5.30 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 13.09.2024, 11.00 AM onwards

IFT No. KCMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/ 5373 /2024-25 Date: 08.08.2024

Description of Service
Insurance Coverage for Plant & Machinery of Kolar Dairy & Sadali Chilling Centres of KOMUL

Access to E-tender Documents : 12.08.2024 to 26.08.2024, 5.30 PM
Last date for submission : on or before 26.08.2024, 5.30 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 28.08.2024, 11.00 AM onwards

Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website https://Kppp.Karnataka.gov.in/

**Sd/-
M.D.KOMUL**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: CEE/TZ/SEC/AEEC/2024-25/8163-64 Dated: 12.08.2024

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka public procurement portal only)

KPTCL invites tenders for the following works through **KPP Portal.**

1. Providing and Fixing of Architectural Facade lighting and LED Name Boards to Office Complex (Indhana Bhavana) at Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru. **Estimate amount in Rs. (Including GST @ 18%): 3,82,00,000.00.** Time limit for completion of works: **5 months (including monsoon period and 5 years comprehensive AMC).**

2. Construction of 68 Nos. Ground water Recharge Pits at different locations in the premises of KPTCL and BBMP Schools at Bengaluru. **Estimate amount in Rs. (Including GST @ 18%):** 54,82,000.00**.** Time limit for completion of works: 6 months (including monsoon).

3. Providing Solar Electricity Generation Plant at different locations of KPTCL premises in Bengaluru. **Estimate amount in Rs. (Including GST @ 18%):** 19,00,000.00**.** Time limit for completion of works: 6 months (including monsoon).

4. Providing Solar Street light at different locations of KPTCL Premises / BBMP footpaths in Bengaluru. **Estimate amount in Rs. (Including GST @ 18%):** 25,00,000.00**.** Time limit for completion of works: 6 months (including monsoon).

Last date for submission of Tenders: As per KPP Portal The bids will be received through kpp portal mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **14.08.2024.**

Note : Any changes, addendum or corrigendum will be notified in KPP Portal only, and will not be published in newspaper.

Sd/-, Chief Engineer, Electy., Transmission Zone, KPTCL, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru-560 009.

ATHENS

Greek wildfire spreads to edge of Athens; towns, hospitals evacuated

REUTERS

A fast-moving wildfire fuelled by gale-force winds spread to the edge of Athens on Monday, torching trees, houses and cars and forcing evacuations of several hospitals and a dozen towns and villages. The European Union on Monday said four countries would send firefighters to Greece upon the government's request. AP

SYDNEY

Australia, U.S. and U.K. sign nuclear transfer deal for AUKUS submarine

REUTERS

Australia said it had signed a deal to allow the exchange of nuclear secrets and material with the United States and Britain, a key step toward equipping its navy with nuclear-powered submarines. It will allow the transfer of sensitive U.S. and U.K. nuclear material and knowhow as part of the tripartite 2021 AUKUS accord. AFP

JAKARTA

Indonesia President holds first Cabinet meeting in future capital

AP

Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Monday held his first Cabinet meeting in the country's future capital, despite much of the city remaining under construction as it runs behind schedule. The $32-billion megaproject Nusantara was originally expected to be inaugurated on August 17 but has been dealyed. AFP

DAR ES SALAAM

Tanzania arrests opposition leaders in mass round-up

AFP

Tanzanian police have detained leading opposition figures including Chadema party leader Freeman Mbowe, in picture, and his deputy Tundu Lissu and rounded up several hundred youth supporters on the eve of a planned rally, a move condemned by rights activists on Monday as "troubling". AFP

Police resume patrols of Dhaka streets as strike ends

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladeshi police resumed patrols of the capital city Dhaka on Monday, ending a week-long strike.

Officers vanished from the streets of the sprawling megacity of 20 million people last week after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation.

The police were loathed for spearheading a lethal crackdown on the protests that forced her departure, with 42 officers among the more than 450 people killed.

Police had vowed not to resume work until their safety was guaranteed, but they agreed to return after talks with the new interim government, helmed by Muhammad Yunus.

Bangladesh is experiencing a student-led revolution: Yunus

The country's interim leader says the developments that transpired were absolutely unparalleled; resignations of Chief Justice and central bank governor were conducted lawfully, he says

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh was experiencing a "student-led revolution" after the ouster of Premier Sheikh Hasina, the South Asian country's new interim leader Muhammad Yunus said.

"This is a revolution, a student-led revolution," the Nobel laureate told a news briefing. "There's no doubt about (that) because the business of the whole government collapsed."

Mr. Yunus arrived back in Bangladesh from Europe on Thursday after he was called by the student leaders of the protests that toppled Ms. Hasina and asked to steer democratic reforms. "I said, 'I respect you, I admire you. What you have done is absolutely unparalleled'," he said. "'Because you ordered me to do this, I take your order'," Mr. Yunus said he told them.

Modicum of normalcy: A police officer controls traffic at a junction in Dhaka, after the police called of their strike, on Monday. AFP

Several top allies of Ms. Hasina, whose iron-fisted tenure ended with her abrupt resignation and flight to India a week ago, subsequently stepped down. Among them were the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the central bank Governor.

They had been issued ultimatums to quit their posts by students. Mr. Yunus said their resignations had been conducted legally. "I'm sure they will find the legal way to justify all of this, because legally... all the steps were followed," he said.

Mr. Yunus made the comments at an off-the-record media briefing on Sunday night at a state building being used as a temporary seat of government.

Iran could launch 'significant' attack on Israel this week: U.S.

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Iran could launch a "significant" attack on Israel as soon as this week, the White House said Monday, as U.S. President Joe Biden discussed the crisis with European leaders.

"We have to be prepared for what could be a significant set of attacks," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters.

"We share the same concerns and expectations that our Israeli counterparts have with respect to potential timing here – could be this week," Mr. Kirby added.

Mr. Kirby's comments came as the United States is rushing an aircraft carrier strike group and a guided missile submarine to the region in a show of support for Israel.

Tit for tat: Iran has vowed to avenge last month's killings of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh. REUTERS

Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah group have vowed to avenge last month's killings of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh and Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr.

Mr. Biden called the leaders of France, Germany, Italy and Britain on Monday to discuss the growing tensions, the White House added.

Call for ceasefire

The leaders also called for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, with difficult talks set for Thursday on halting the conflict that started when the Palestinian group attacked Israel on October 7.

Russia evacuates two border regions as it fights Ukraine forces

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Two Russian regions bordering Ukraine ordered more evacuations on Monday as Moscow battled to contain an unprecedented push onto its territory.

Ukraine sent troops into Russia last week in its biggest cross-border operation since Moscow launched its invasion in February 2022 and the most significant one conducted by a foreign Army since the Second World War.

Authorities in the Kursk region announced they were widening their evacuation area to include Belovsky district, home to some 14,000 people.

Ukraine sent troops into Russia last week in its biggest operation since the war began in 2022

The neighbouring Belgorod region in Russia said it was evacuating its border district of Krasnoyaruzhsky.

"For the health and security of our population, wen are beginning to move people who live in Krasnoyaruzhsky to safer places," Belgorod region Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said on Telegram.

The assault on Kursk had already led to 76,000 people being ordered out.

On the boil

A boy, affected by flooding in Sudan, cooking food at a makeshift camp used by people displaced by civil war. The UN migration agency warns that Sudan is at a catastrophic 'breaking point', with tens of thousands of preventable deaths looming from multiple crises. AFP

Former Pakistan spy chief held over land development case

Reuters
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's military said on Monday it had arrested retired General Faiz Hameed, former head of the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency, in connection with a land development case.

The detention of a high-profile officer is unusual in Pakistan, where the military has ruled for over 30 of the 77 years since independence, and continues to hold sway.

The arrest was ordered by the Supreme Court, the military said in a statement, adding that multiple violations of the Pakistan Army Act after Mr. Hameed's retirement had also been established.

Faiz Hameed

Mr. Hameed was director general of the ISI from 2019 to 2021.

Mr. Hameed was also considered to be close to Imran Khan, who named him to head the ISI when he was premier. Mr. Khan was ousted in 2022.

Afghanistan's Taliban rulers score diplomatic wins and consolidate power

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

Three years into its rule of Afghanistan, the Taliban government has achieved some diplomatic wins even as it has consolidated power and enforced its strict version of Islamic law.

The Taliban rulers continue to operate without official recognition from any country – its restrictions on women a major sticking point.

But concern over Afghanistan's worsening humanitarian crisis, the threat of terrorism, and hard-nosed pragmatism have led to some international engagement.

The most notable example was the Taliban government's participation, for the first time, in United Nations-hosted talks in June in Qatar to discuss economic issues and counter-narcotics efforts.

Chief Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, who led the delegation, said the gathering was further proof that: "Afghanistan has come out of isolation".

"We are in favour of positive meetings with the condition that Afghanistan's situation is taken into account," he said in a recent interview ahead of this week's three-year anniversary of the Taliban taking back power.

The talks went ahead after Kabul obtained the agreement of the UN – which has described restrictions on women in Afghanistan as "gender apartheid" – that civil society and women's rights groups would not attend.

Obaidullah Baheer, grandson of former warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and an Afghan academic, said engagement at the talks was a "smart approach".

"The international community cannot solve the women's rights issue. What they can do is try to create an environment" to gradually stabilise the economy in Afghanistan, Mr. Baheer said.

"Economic stability naturally brings with it some sort of opening for politics as well."

Security the 'priority'

The Taliban authorities, who are still pushing to fill Afghanistan's seat at the UN, are also forging regional ties.

"Currently we have very good relations with neighbouring, regional and Muslim countries," Mujahid said, adding that about 40 countries had embassies or consulates in Afghanistan.

Small gains: The Taliban participated in UN-hosted talks in June in Qatar to discuss economic issues and counter-narcotics efforts. AP

While Western embassies in Kabul have been closed for three years, Pakistan, China, Russia, Iran and Central Asian republics have established de facto diplomatic relations with Kabul.

Russia is also preparing to remove the Taliban from its list of terrorist organisations, while Beijing has appointed its first Ambassador to Kabul since the takeover.

Fears over the growing security threat from the Islamic State group's branch in the region, known as Islamic State Khorasan Province, have also spurred engagement.

Last week, the UN warned that IS-K posed the greatest external terrorist threat to Europe and was growing in strength.

Mujahid insisted the IS threat was being overblown.

"We have brought the phenomenon of ISKP to nearly zero," he said.

After ousting the foreign-backed government and ending their 20-year insurgency, the Taliban rulers have made security one of their highest priorities.

The Taliban authorities still allocate a large part of the national budget to security despite Afghanistan no longer being at war and its economy in dire straits.

Stricter rules

And while Afghans may welcome restored security after more than 40 years of successive conflicts, many also struggle to feed themselves and strain under tightening restrictions.

A civil society activist described the rules on daily life as becoming "stricter and stricter".

Government affairs are mostly run through religious edicts from the reclusive Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada.

Politically, there is no visible opposition: parties are banned and there are no elections.

"There is no one to challenge the Emir," the civil society activist said.

The UN has described a "climate of fear" in the country, where popular protests are virtually non-existent.

The Taliban government rejects these accusations.

"We don't accept that we are totalitarian," Mujahid said.

The authorities have "mechanisms... to convey the voice of the people to the government", spokesman Mujahid said, referring to provincial counsels comprising clerics and tribal elders.

"They might not be the same as in the previous government or what are common in democratic governments, but we have developed these mechanisms in an Islamic way," Mujahid said.

CONCERNING

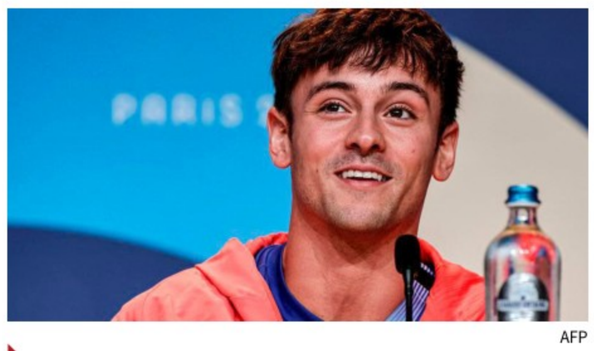
Lyles opens up about competing after testing positive for Covid

AP

Asthma didn't stop Noah Lyles from taking on the 200 metre at the Paris Olympics, even after testing positive for Covid-19. "We were back in the medical bay underneath the track. Their biggest concern was me getting bronchitis because we didn't want something to get infected and the asthma really starts to take form."

CALLING IT QUITS

Tom Daley announces retirement from diving



AFP

Former Olympic gold medallist Tom Daley announced his retirement from diving on Monday following the Paris Games. "I have to make the decision at some point, and it feels like the right time. It's the right time to call it a day," Daley said. He had won silver in the Paris Games men's synchronised 10m platform.

HEALTH SCARE

Irish Olympian Wiffen hospitalised after Seine swim

GETTY IMAGES

Irish double medal-winning Olympian Daniel Wiffen said on Monday he had "rushed" to a hospital in Paris with a stomach bug, two days after taking part in the marathon swimming in Seine. "Yesterday I rushed to hospital as I was very unwell with a bug that I am being treated for, and am feeling better now."

DETOUR

Neeraj leaves for Germany to take medical advice

RITU RAJ KONWAR

Neeraj Chopra has left for Germany after winning a silver medal in the Paris Games to take medical advice regarding a possible surgery and to decide whether to feature in the upcoming Diamond League meetings. "Neeraj will not return to India for another month and a half," a family source said.

The City of Light serves up a visual spectacle to mark the end of the greatest sporting show on earth

The Stade de France fills to the brim as athletes, celebrities and dignitaries come together to celebrate the Olympics; Paris will now get ready to welcome the Paralympic Games

PARIS 2024

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Highlighting the marriage of tradition and modernity as one of its underlying themes, Paris 2024 – which began unconventionally on the beautiful Seine – closed the greatest show on earth conventionally with the Stade de France serving as a grand theatre to emphasise the Olympic Games as a human monument.

The Sunday night wowed more than 71,000 spectators in the stands and millions around the world to celebrate humanity as well as the extraordinary athletic endeavours, in the form of nearly 850 medals won and 42 records broken (including 10 World records and 32 Olympic records).

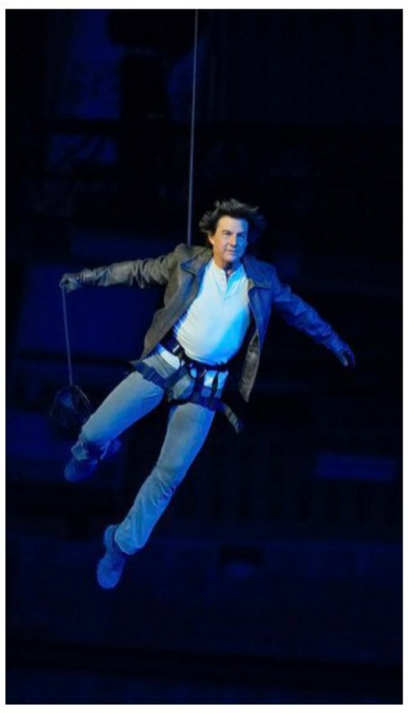
The ceremony began with a musical performance as an ode to the Games' host city as the Olympic flame travelled from the Louvre to the Stade de France.

Following the entry of French president Emmanuel Macron and International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach, the French National flag and the Olympic flag were raised while the National anthem of the host country, the Marseillaise, was sung by the Maîtrise de Fontainebleau and Orchestre Divertimento, under the baton of conductor Zahia Ziouani.

Ultimate celebration

The entry of the flag-bearers and the parade of athletes from 205 delegations were the ultimate celebration of the heroes of Paris 2024. They started the parade on the stage, in the centre of the stadium, that symbolically represented a planisphere. Then the athletes entered the arena together from two entry points to join the parade.

India could not have found a better pair of flag-bearers as double bronze medallist shooter Manu Bhaker, the best Indian athlete here, and double bronze medallist hockey goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh, who signed off on a high, proudly performed their duty. For the first time, the women's marathon concluded the Olympic Games and its top three finishers were handed medals in the final victory ceremony to underline Paris 2024's effort to make it the most gender-equal Games.



Mission LA 2028: During the festivities, Tom Cruise descended from the top of the Stade de France on a cable and acted out a sequence of taking the Olympic flag to the Hollywood sign in Los Angeles. RITU RAJ KONWAR & AP

A sequence showing the Marathon Pour Tous, a unique race open to the public and run on Saturday evening on the same course as the one used by the Olympic athletes, exhibited the Games Wide Open.

As ancient Greek civilisation and modern artistic presentation – drawing reference from the Voyager Golden Record of the launch of Voyager spaceship in 1977 – mixed, a futuristic extraterrestrial character, after getting to know about humanity, arrived from space to explore earth. In a dreamlike setting beyond space and time, it gave out the message that the Games created by humanity must be kept alive.

The Greek flag and anthem stirred emotions and Goddess Nike, the Goddess of victory associated with the ancient Games, appearing as the statue of Victory of Samothrace displayed in the famous Louvre museum, made it spectacular.

A reference to Sorbonne and Pierre de Coubertin to underscore the revival of the Games, the excavation, dramatic formation and raising of the Olympic rings with a round of fireworks and some captivating music preceded the speeches of Paris 2024 president Tony Estanguet and IOC chief Bach.

"Together, we have shown the world the most beautiful face of France," said Estanguet. "We have broken a new record that is very close to our hearts: the most marriage proposals (seven) ever at an Olympic Games! These feelings of hope, and love, and inspiration, will remain."

"These were sensational Olympic Games from start to finish – or dare I say: these were SEINE-sational Olympic Games from start to finish," said Bach.

After the playing of the Olympic anthem, when Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo handed over the Olympic flag to her Los Angeles counterpart Karen Bass, the Games symbolically moved to Los Angeles 2028.

Playing of the American National anthem by Grammy award winning H.E.R., Tom Cruise's stunts and an instantaneous virtual journey from Paris to the land of Hollywood and L.A. Coliseum were magical as some top USA athletes, including track and field legend Michael Johnson, showed their readiness to welcome the Games. A performance by rapper Snoop Dogg completed the lovely shift.

Iconic song

Yseult performed *My Way*, an iconic song depicting a strong link between France and the USA, as the Olympic flame was extinguished to mark the end of 33rd edition of the Games while the City of Light got ready to welcome the Paralympic Games.

No one ever loses in the Olympics

Abhinav Bindra

Bindra. IOC MEDIA

For a long time now, the Olympic movement has been a big part of my life. First as an athlete and now as someone using the power of sports to give back to communities and to the environment.

The ceremony at the 142nd IOC session last Saturday forced to me reflect on my journey as an athlete. I can admit it was not easy, as an athlete's life never is. But it also underscores the lifelong commitment every Olympian makes to their sport and country, and I claim this award on behalf of every athlete that has persevered, sacrificed and still prevailed.

Complete devotion

It takes complete devotion towards one's sport and requires sincere passion from an athlete to even earn the opportunity to be named as an Olympian. The pressure of the stage is almost insurmountable. With millions watching worldwide, and the best of the best by your side as your opponents, it takes nerves of steel to stand there, feigning confidence.

The Olympic stage teaches you many things, but above all, you learn what it truly means to be human. All athletes make tremendous sacrifices to climb up that ladder and reach the pinnacle, in service of their country, and with a chance to create history. To me, the Olympic experience is not only life changing, but also life-affirming.

> The Olympic experience is not only life changing, but also life-affirming...it teaches you many things, but above all, you learn what it truly means to be human

I had my fair share of lessons during my time as an Olympic Gold medallist back in the day. But winning the Gold medal was just one part. Through the lens of Olympism, I have come to realise that the real victory lies in the journey, the values we uphold, and the positive impact we can have on society. My experiences taught me the cause of Olympism and instilled values in me to strive towards a more inclusive society. As a society, we need to imbibe the Olympic spirit in our daily lives and promote the ideals, values, and vision for acceptance, human rights, and non-discrimination.

Holistic development

Henceforth, post my retirement I began working across multiple non-profit organisations and founded Performance Centres, to support the development of sports across all layers. I would like to dedicate my life's work towards promoting the holistic development of young children and attempting to make positive contributions to society, including the planet we will leave behind for the generation to follow.

Having been presented with the Olympic Order, I often wonder if any of it would have been possible if I had not first traversed the hard road and spilled all the blood, sweat and tears, much like each athlete who makes their way to the Olympics.

Perhaps, this is why, we, as a nation, and as sports lovers, must not only reserve our cheers, claps, support and love for the Olympic medal winners. We must never forget anyone who decides to compete in the first place, because they are the ones who will eventually make it to the Olympics.

How can we ever produce Olympians if we don't as a country encourage our children to play, to lose, to win, and stick it out even when the odds seem stacked against you. For only when you are forged by the values of sports, the rigours of losses and victory can one emerge as an Olympian. And then when they do, it is critical that we remember that the spirit of the Olympics goes beyond medals and accolades; it's about the shared human experience and the legacy we leave behind.

And that is why I truly believe that at the Olympics, every athlete who represents the Indian flag here is a hero and at the Olympics, no one truly ever loses.

(The writer is a 2008 Olympic Gold-medal winning shooter)

Graham Thorpe's death was a suicide, reveals wife Amanda

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Thorpe. REUTERS

Graham Thorpe's wife Amanda has revealed the former England cricketer took his own life after battling depression and anxiety for several years. Aged just 55, Thorpe's death in August plunged the cricket world into mourning for the popular star.

He enjoyed an impressive England career as an elegant batsman between 1993 and 2005, before spending 12 years in various coaching roles. But Thorpe was hospitalised in May 2022 and declared "seriously ill".

Amanda Thorpe has now revealed in an interview with *The Times* that the former Surrey player attempted suicide two years ago before taking his own life earlier this month.

"Despite having a wife and two daughters whom he loved and who loved him, he did not get better. He was so unwell in recent times and he really did believe that we would be better off without him and we are devastated that he acted on that and took his own life," said Amanda.

"For the past couple of years, Graham had been suffering from major depression and anxiety. This led him to make a serious attempt on his life in May 2022, which resulted in a prolonged stay in an intensive care unit."

The left-hander featured in 100 Tests and 82 one-day internationals for England, scoring over 9,000 runs for his country, including 16 Test hundreds.

(Assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts is available on the State's health helpline 104, Tele-MANAS 14416 and Sneha's suicide prevention helpline 044-24640050. Helplines across the country can be accessed here: https://bit.ly/4djLM6C)

One Duleep Trophy fixture set to be moved to Bengaluru

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

One of the two opening round fixtures of the Duleep Trophy – the domestic season-opening tournament in the men's calendar – is set to be shifted from Anantapur to Bengaluru with an eye on optimising the international regulars' participation in a domestic match.

The Duleep Trophy has been tweaked this season from its conventional interzonal format into a four-team tournament, with the sides picked by the senior national selection committee.

According to the fixtures made public by the Board of Control for Cricket in India, the tournament will be played at two venues in a league format from September 5 to 22.

With the Indian team having a six-week break from the international calendar, the Ajit Agarkar-chaired panel wants the majority of Test regulars to participate in the Duleep Trophy opening round. From then on, the players will join the preparatory camp ahead of the first Test against Bangladesh, starting September 19.

The BCCI management, in consultation with the Andhra Cricket Association and the Karnataka State Cricket Association, decided to move one of the two first-round games to the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium considering the logistical challenges involved in travelling to Anantapur.

The Hindu understands that the selectors have given Jasprit Bumrah and R. Ashwin an extended break while Virat Kohli and captain Rohit Sharma have been given an option to decide for themselves. The duo will inform their decision to the national selection committee before its meeting to finalise the four squads.

Rishabh Pant is set to feature in his maiden First Class game for nearly two years while Suryakumar Yadav, the T20 captain, is hopeful of making a case for a Test return.

Ishan Kishan and Shreyas Iyer – stripped of a national retainer due to their lack of will to play domestic cricket last season – are set to be included.

INBRIEF

Injury scare for Stokes before Sri Lanka series

England Test captain Ben Stokes was carried off the field on Sunday while playing for Hundred outfit Northern Superchargers. All-rounder Stokes, 33, suffered an apparent hamstring injury in the match in Manchester and was accompanied into the stands by two Superchargers staff members. He grabbed the back of his left leg while in pain on the floor having hit a quick single. England begins the first of its three-match Test series against Sri Lanka on August 21, at the same Old Trafford ground.

Bodoland wins a seven-goal thriller against BSF

Bodoland FC prevailed over Border Security Force FT 4-3 in the 133rd Durand Cup football at Kokrajhar (Assam) on Monday to keep its slim chances of progressing to the knockout stage alive. Bodoland finished its group stage campaign with six points while BSF, which lost all its three matches in Group E, could not register a point.

The result: Bodoland FC 4 (Brahma 54 & 71; Dwimary 2, Narzary 62) bt BSF 3 (Kishori 50, 69; Asif 89).

BENGALURU LOCALS

Thumping win for St. Joseph's BHS

Gagan Chetan scored a brace as St. Joseph's BHS blanked Baldwin Boys 6-0 in SJBHS inter- school hockey centenary shield (U-17) tournament on Monday.

The results: Frank Anthony Public School 1 (Ronnie 27) bt Bishop Cottons 0; Vidyashilp Academy 4 (Shikarjeeth Singh 12, 22, Sohan Kadali 28, Nived Nair 38) bt Sarala Birla Academy 0; St. Joseph's BHS 6 (S. Brenden Vincent 3, Ronith Infant 7, Adhavan 12, Gagan Chetan 13, 19, Akrit Rodrigues 16) bt Baldwin Boys 0.

Naveen stars in Naveen HC's win

C.N. Naveen Kumar accounted for two goals as Naveen HC defeated Anglo Indian 2-0 in the KSHA D.S. Murthy Memorial hockey tournament here on Monday.

The results: Bagalkot City SC 3 (Raghavendra Kavital 1, 10, Shrishail Gonal 25) bt Gameon 2 (Sharan 11, Santhosh 16); Naveen 2 (C.N. Naveen Kumar 10, 19) bt Anglo Indian 0.

Divya helps Rebels Womens FC salvage a draw

Divya Rana scored an injury-time equaliser as Rebels Womens FC salvaged a 2-2 draw against United FC Kodagu in Karnataka Women's League football on Monday.

The results: Maatru Pratishtana FC 2 (Preeti 28, 67) bt Misaka United FC 0; Rebels Womens FC 2 (Senorita Nongpluh 23, 63) drew with United FC Kodagu 2 (Ayush Malvi 29, Divya Rana 90+3).

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 & 6.30 p.m.

Lyles and Hassan bookend a fabulous Paris Olympics programme

Pole-vaulter extraordinaire Duplantis, hurdler McLaughlin-Levrone, and the American mixed 4x400 relay team set World Records

ATHLETICS

Reuters
PARIS

The Olympic athletics programme, highlighted by the shortest event and then the longest, saw performances of astonishing quality and spine-tingling drama, played out to a beautiful and unique purple backdrop that will forever mean Paris.

The closest and highest quality men's 100 metres race and a late-night pole vault world record lit up the first week, while Sifan Hassan's final-day marathon win to cap a barely believable hat-trick of medals was a fitting way to bring down the curtain.

"It's been fantastic and I think the quality of athletics at the moment is almost beyond description," Sebastian Coe, head of World Athletics said this week.

"I can't remember a time when we've had such a bandwidth of excellence."

Nowhere was that more visible than in the men's 100 where Noah Lyles caught Kishane Thompson on the line to win by five thousandths of a second in 9.79.

The six men behind them were also sub-10 – the first time that has happened in a legal race.

Phenom: Hassan gives vent to her emotions after adding the marathon gold to the bronze in the 5,000 and 10,000m events. GETTY IMAGES

Lyles, the sport's biggest showman, was unable to double up, taking bronze in the 200 and then revealing he was running with COVID. Instead, Botswana's quiet assassin Letsile Tebogo became the first African to win it.

The United States delivered a world record in the rarely-run mixed 4x400 relay but Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone's obliteration of her own world record to win the 400 hurdles was of a different magnitude of quality. Mondo Duplantis also beat his own pole vault world record in a moment of great theatre at the Stade de France. With all other events finished and the Swede's expected gold long pocketed, he failed twice at 6.25m before sailing clear to a stupendous roar.

Coe hoped the men's 1,500 would be a "race for the ages" and it was – though not in the way he or anyone else expected.

Briton Josh Kerr ran the race of his life to get past defending champion Jakob Ingebrigtsen, only for longshot American Cole Hocker to come past them both and win in a huge personal best to produce one of the biggest upsets of the Games.

Ingebrigtsen bounced back to win the 5,000, while in the women's 1,500 Kenya's peerless Faith Kipyegon completed an unprecedented hat-trick.

Medals galore over the shorter distances has usually been the norm for the United States but it found remarkable success in all sorts of events in Paris.

After relatively slim pickings in Tokyo, USA was back in charge – with 14 gold, 11 silver and nine bronze medals to set it up for hosting the next Games in Los Angeles.

In contrast, Jamaica had a torrid time, barely featuring in the sprints it has dominated for years and its solitary gold medal was a shock discus win for Roje Stona.

Scarcely believable

The final event provided a fabulous and scarcely believable finale as Dutchwoman Hassan won the women's marathon after taking bronze in the 5,000 and 10,000.

She was the first woman to even attempt the treble, let alone medal in all three, and now stands alongside athletics royalty in the shape of Emil Zatopek, who won all three in 1952.

Forty three countries won athletics medals, with Saint Lucia, Dominica and Pakistan doing so for the first time, all golds, via Julian Alfred in the women's 100, Thea LaFond in the women's triple jump, and Arshad Nadeem in the men's javelin.

Sugi Sai clinches silver in All-England junior badminton

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

India's Sugi Sai won men's silver in the Yonex All-England junior (under-19) badminton championships in Birmingham on Sunday, losing to second seed Tiago Berenguer of Portugal 21-11, 14-21, 5-21 in the final.

The unseeded Sugi defeated a few ranked players along the way, including former champion Jason Ou of England, the fourth seed, in the fourth round, Harper Leigh of Wales, seeded seventh, in the quarterfinal and top seed Bharath Latheesh of UAE in the last-four stage.

Sugi is being trained by Aravindan Samiappan at the Fireball Academy in Chennai.

Sugi Sai.

Siddharth takes the honours in the Bhagyanagar Million

RACING

HYDERABAD: Trainer M. Srinivas Reddy's Siddharth, ridden by Akshay Kumar, won the Bhagyanagar Million, the main event of Monday's (Aug. 12) races here. The winner is owned by Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey.

Jockey-turned-trainer A. Imran Khan, who recently secured his trainer's licence at HRC, scored his debut winner through the 20-to-1 longshot Sopranos in the upper division of the Independence Cup.

1. ROYAL WINDSOR PLATE: WHITE PEARL (Akshay Kumar) 1, Voice Of A Dream (Surya Prakash) 2, London Bell (Md. Ekram) 3 and Caraxes (Shivansh) 4. 4, 8 and 6. 1m, 56.43s. ₹12 (w), 11, 10 and 16 (p). SHP: 33. THP: 34, SHW: 11 and 17, FP: 40, Q: 36, Tanala: 155. Favourite: White Pearl. Owner: M.A.M. Ramaswamy Chettiar Of Chettinad Charitable Trust. Trainer: K. Satheesh.

2. THREE WISHES PLATE: NAV LAKHAA (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Blue Label (R.S. Jodha) 2, Reining Queen (Surya Prakash) 3 and Fortune Art (P. Sai K) 4. Dist, Head and Dist. 1m, 9.12s. ₹15 (w), 11, 10 and 15 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 38, SHW: 10 and 15, FP: 40, Q: 28, Tanala: 129. Favourite: Nav Lakhaa. Owner: Mr. Kapil Agarwal. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

3. DEVARAKONDA CUP: ESPIONAGE (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Calista Girl (Ajay Kumar) 2, N R I Skypower (Likith Appu) 3 and Crimson Rose (Shivansh) 4. 1/2, 1-1/2 and Neck. 1m, 8.31s. ₹13 (w), 10, 12 and 16 (p). SHP: 29, THP: 50, SHW: 13 and 15, FP: 35, Q: 32, Tanala: 157. Favourite: Espionage. Owners: Mr. Prakash Babu, Mr. P. Ranga Raju and Mrs. T. Rohini. Trainer: D. Netto.

4. RAZIA SULTAN PLATE: PRICELESS PRINCE (Suraj Narredu) 1, Flying Fury (Afroz Khan) 2, Golden Unicorn (P. Sai Kumar) 3 and Annihilator (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. Neck, 9-3/4 and Neck. 1m, 7.91s. ₹22 (w), 16, 14 and 15 (p). SHP: 56, THP: 57, SHW: 14 and 27, FP: 144, Q: 77, Tanala: 597. Favourite: Priceless Prince. Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria & M/s. Blazing Saddles. Trainer: Satish Narredu.

5. INDEPENDENCE CUP (DIV. I): SOPRANOS (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Classical Music (Ajay Kumar) 2, Dyanoosh (Mukesh) 3 and True Icon (Gaurav Singh) 4. 1-1/2, 1/2 and Head. 1m, 15.56s. ₹497 (w), 108, 49 and 18 (p). SHP: 137, THP: 43, SHW: 407 and 60, FP: 29, 332, Q: 1,679, Tanala: 50, 515. Favourite: Devils Magic. Owner: Mr. Narendra Vithaldas Shah. Trainer: A. Imran Khan.

6. BHAGYANAGAR MILLION : SIDDHARTH (Akshay Kumar) 1, Truth (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, High Command (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Livermore (Afroz Khan) 4. 2-1/4, 1-1/4 and 2. 1m, 53. 84s. ₹24 (w), 16 and 10, SHP: 32, THP: 26, SHW: 21 and 10, FP: 55, Q: 26, Tanala: 115. Favourite: Truth. Owner: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

7. INDEPENDENCE CUP (DIV. II): MIDSUMMER STAR (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Malibu (Md. Ekram) 2, Amyra (Abhay Singh) 3 and Winning Attitude (Afroz Khan) 4. Not run: Happy Go Lucky. 2, 3/4 and 2. 1m, 15.11s. ₹29 (w), 14, 14 and 39 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 82, SHW: 16 and 12, FP: 80, Q: 37, Tanala: 937. Favourite: Malibu. Owners: Mr. Jatin L. Trivedi & Mr. Nitin H. Jain rep. J.N. Racing & Breeders LLP. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹32,526 (9 tkts.) & 30%: 3,301 (38 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: 74 (416 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 50 (553 tkts.), (ii) 6,847 (5 tkts.).

Vaishali and Sarin headline GCL player draft

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The acquisition of Indian Grandmasters R. Vaishali and Nihal Sarin headlined the player draft ahead of the second season of the Global Chess League 2024, scheduled in London from October 3 to 12.

Vaishali was roped in by Ganges Grandmasters, which has Viswanathan Anand, in the Superstar Women 1 section while the 20-year-old Sarin went to Alaskan Knights in the Prodigy category, during the draft held here on Sunday.

Meanwhile, GMs Koneru Humpy and D. Harika were retained by Mumba Masters.

The icon players: Magnus Carlsen (Alpine SG Pipers), Anand (Ganges Grandmasters), Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Mumba Masters), Ian Nepomniachtchi (Triveni Continental Kings), Hikaru Nakamura (American Gambits) and Anish Giri (Alaskan Knights).

Defiant: Athanaze helped the hosts salvage a draw with a quality innings. AFP

Athanaze and rain thwart SA's victory bid

SA IN WI

Associated Press
PORT OF SPAIN

Both South Africa and West Indies had hopes of winning the rain-hit first Test before having to settle for a draw on Sunday.

South Africa set West Indies a target of 298 on the fifth and final day, with Alick Athanaze leading the hosts' chase with 92.

West Indies finished on 201 for five in its second innings as each team started to run out of overs to get the required runs or wickets amid light checks.

South Africa had earlier resumed on 30 for no loss from five overs in its second innings – an overall lead of 154 – and declared at 173 for three.

The scores: South Africa 357 & 173/3 decl. in 29 overs (Stubbs 68, de Zorzi 45) drew with West Indies 233 & 201/5 in 56.2 overs (Athanaze 92, Holder 31 n.o., Maharaj 4/88). **PoM**: Maharaj.

Alcaraz sets his sights on year-end No. 1 tennis ranking

TENNIS

Reuters
CINCINNATI

After capturing back-to-back Grand Slam titles and a silver medal at the Paris Olympics, World No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz said one of his key goals for the rest of the season is to finish as the top-ranked player in the world.

The 21-year-old French Open and Wimbledon champion, who lost a thrilling Olympic final to Novak Djokovic, returns to action at the Cincinnati Open, where he can gain ground on the Serb and Italian Jannik Sinner.

Alcaraz is 450 points behind World No. 1 Sinner in the ATP live race to the season finale in Turin, the separate year-to-date standings that serve as a measuring stick for the year-end number one battle.

"Obviously being number one is a goal every time that I'm (behind) and the race is an important ranking for me. At the end of the year if you end the race number one, in the rankings it's quite similar, so you're going to end number one," Alcaraz said.

"So I'm really focused on that. I'm focused on going to every tournament, thinking about playing great tennis, doing a good result just to get better in the race.

"This year, ending the year as number one is one of my main goals right now."

The Cincinnati Open is an important tune-up event for the Aug. 26-Sept. 8 U.S. Open.

"I'm excited to play here again. Obviously great memories from last year, reaching the final, losing a really tight and epic match (to Djokovic)," Alcaraz said.

Djokovic withdrew from Cincinnati after his Olympic triumph.

Resolution: Alcaraz wants to cap off 2024 as the leading player in the world. GETTY IMAGES

Sreeja ruled out of UTT due to stress fracture

TABLE TENNIS

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Sreeja Akula has been ruled out of the upcoming season of Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) due to a stress fracture. She has been replaced by under-19 youth National champion Nithyashree Mani.

Sreeja, who along with Manika Batra created history by becoming the first Indian players to make the round of 16 in individual events at the Paris Olympics, is currently the highest ranked player in the country at 22nd.

The two-time National champion was slated to play for Jaipur Patriots, but in a statement released on Monday, she said she will need a resting period of six weeks.

"I am sorry to share that I have been diagnosed with a stress fracture and on my doctor's advice, I will need to rest for six weeks, which unfortunately means (that) I will not be able to participate in UTT."

The upcoming edition will be held in Chennai from August 22 to September 7.

Out of action: Sreeja says she will need a resting period of six weeks. AFP

New Zealand includes O'Rourke and Sears for Tests

Agence France-Presse
WELLINGTON

New Zealand included promising seamers Will O'Rourke and Ben Sears on Monday in its Test squad to face Afghanistan and Sri Lanka as the Black Caps look to bounce back from T20 World Cup debacle.

New Zealand plays Afghanistan next month in a one-off Test in Noida, India, before facing Sri Lanka away in a two-Test series in late September.

The Test squad: Tim Southee (capt.), Tom Blundell, Michael Bracewell, Devon Conway, Matt Henry, Tom Latham, Daryl Mitchell, Will O'Rourke, Ajaz Patel, Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra, Mitchell Santner, Ben Sears, Kane Williamson, Will Young.